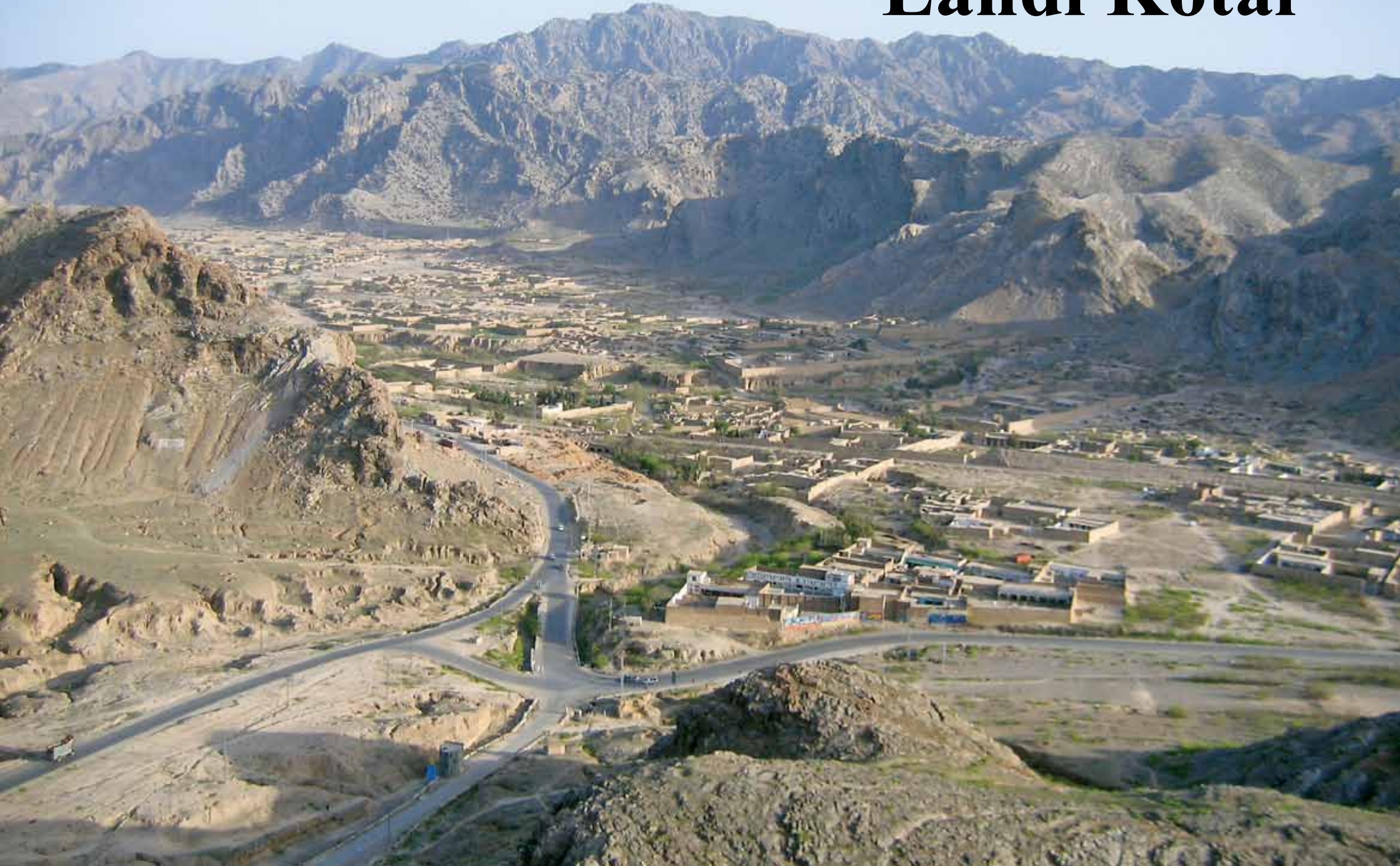


Landi Kotal





Khyber Pass

ISBN 978-969-9834-02-8

First Edition 2015, 1000 Copies

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Publisher. War Studies, Pakistan
350 Askari-2, Gujranwala Cantonment

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Printers: THE ARMY PRESS
Plot # 1, Street 40, I&T Centre, G-10-4 Islamabad 44000
Pakistan

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Email : thearmypress786@hotmail.com

Distributor: SAEED BOOK BANK
Al-Rehman Centre, F-7 Markaz,
Jinnah Supper, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Phone : +92-51-2651656-58

Fax : +92-51-2651660

Post Box : 515, Post Mall, F-7, Islamabad.

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An Illustrated History
of
Khyber Rifles
1878-2015

Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema (Retired)

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Glossary of Terms

Agency. Tribal areas or Alaqahs are politically and administratively governed by the federal government of Pakistan, and are known as Agency, Khyber Agency is one among seven other such agency. Political Agent is appointed and represents President of Pakistan and is not under provincial or federal cabinet.

Afghan. Use commonly for all those who speak Pashtu but are citizens of Afghanistan.

Barrampta. The action taken by Khyber Rifles in line with tribal custom, in ensuring that bond is given and fulfilled by tribes.

British Raj. The era of British rule in India, 1857-1947.

Commandant. An officer in charge of Khyber Rifles, Colonel from Pakistan Army's fighting arms, tenure of command is 2-3 years but exceptions are there. He has the power of enrolment, discharge, rewards and punishment, promotion and demotion. He is administratively and tactically under command to political agent and inspector general frontier corps, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

China. Water source. spring, stream.

Durand Line. The International border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Frontier Corps. In 1907, all the Scouts, Militia and Rifles, in Political Agencies and states were put under newly established FC or popularly known as Militia, its headquarters are at Balahisar Fort, Peshawar.

Gasht. Patrolling by Khyber Rifles in tribal area.

Great Game. Rivalry between Britain and Russia to have Afghanistan under their sphere.

Kandao. Local term for spring stream.

Khyber or Khaiber. Both are used for Khyber Pass but Khyber is only used for Khyber Rifles.

Malik. The headman of a tribe, he is elected by tribe and accepted as such by political agent. It is not hereditary in nature and open for all, bravery and diplomacy are the chief criteria.

Mess. An institution, separate for officers, junior commissioned, non-commissioned officers, and clerks, with its own traditions and rules. For dining, living and relaxing.

Militia, Scouts and Rifles. In classical sense the tribal force, however since 1878, it denotes Political Agent's military power, recruited from the tribes. Popularly and culturally it represents Frontier Corps. Militia is also the colour and type of cloth used in uniform of Frontier Corps.

Pakhtun & Pakhtunwali. The Pathan is commonly used for all those who speak Pashtu, it is not necessary that all Pathans to adhere by the code of Pathans: Pakhtunwali. It is the tribes who are more adherent believers and practitioners of the code which emphasis on hospitality and revenge.

Programme. The feast given by soldiers to their fellow soldier friends, by cooking food and playing music instruments.

Qaum. The tribes are known as qaum or nation, soldiers are recruited on the basis of qaum, like Afridi, Wazir, Yousafzai, Khattak, Bangash, Orakzai, Mullagori, Shilman, Mahsud. It is the strongest bond in Militia.

Wing. Identical to infantry battalion in organisation and manpower but inferior in firepower. Each wing is commanded by a lieutenant colonel of regular army, for a duration of 2-3 years.



Message

*Inspector General Frontier Corps, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Major General Muhammad Tayyab Azam
Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military)*

Khyber Rifles is the oldest corps among the fourteen corps which comprises the Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or Militia as it is lovingly known among the tribes and people of Pakistan. Although the very idea of tribal army is as old as the idea of civilisation, however, nowhere else in the world; the Militia is as conceptualised, evolved and institutionalised as in Pakistan. Frontier Corps is the last of such Militia Corps in the world which is still carrying the glamour, romance and the very core of Militia; its tribal components with all their traditions.

Frontier Corps history and traditions originates with the raising of Khyber Rifles in 1878 and as such, Khyber Rifles are held in high esteem. Khyber Rifles real fame is embedded in the history of the very pass they guard; The Khyber Pass. History of Indus Valley and for that matter, the history of sub-continent is rooted in this thirty odd miles long pass. Khyber Pass truly is the geographical pivot of Pakistan's history. As such, the present book is not only an important document as a regimental history of the Khyber Rifles but also as the continuity of the millenniums old sacred task of preserving the Historia, for the future generations.



Since the dawn of new millennium, military campaigns are being carried out mainly in tribal areas, which is now coming to its logical and historical culmination with state firmly establishing its writ; sacrifices of Frontier Corps and that of Khyber Rifles have made it possible. Unrest in tribal areas are not sudden rather they do have historical continuity, this is where the role of Militia becomes paramount as is obvious in just terminated operations. The fact that Khyber Pass remained open throughout the entire decade and half military campaign is the biggest tribute to Khyber Rifles, as they are the guardian of this Scarlet Thread . Future, looks bright, happy and peaceful, Khyber Pass has now truly entered into a new millennium with the construction of modern highway, opening ceremony was performed by the President of Pakistan in August 2015.

There are always lessons of history; more specifically in military history and this book has plenty to explore. I am satisfied with the historical aspect of the book, although it is rare to have a unifying opinion on history yet the very fact that author Major Aamir Cheema {retired} has taken risks in gathering knowledge makes present book worth reading , for which I personally and on behalf of Frontier Corps is grateful.



Foreword



Colonel Tariq Hafeez
Commandant Khyber Rifles

It is a matter of great honour to be in command of Khyber Rifles at this moment, when the operations against the miscreants have been concluded successfully in Khyber Agency and we have entered the rehabilitation phase. Khyber Pass is the opening line of the three millennium history of subcontinent, starting from Alexander the Great, Muhammad of Ghor, Ghangez Khan, Tamerlane, Babur and his descendants, Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali. Khyber Rifles was raised in 1878 as Levies, then transitioned into Militia, passed a phase as an Afridi Battalion and reverted back to its original name Khyber Rifles, “The Guardian of Khyber Pass”.

In Khyber Agency, Afridiis are the largest tribe in numbers, land holding and influence. Shinwari, Shilmani and Mullagori are the other three tribes; who all occupy mostly eastern parts of Khyber Agency. All these tribes have Aryan and Islamic basis of hospitality and primitive causes of conflict. Khyber Rifles have men from all the tribes. Captain Gaisford was the first Commandant of Khyber Rifles after which Colonel Sir Nawab Aslam Khan

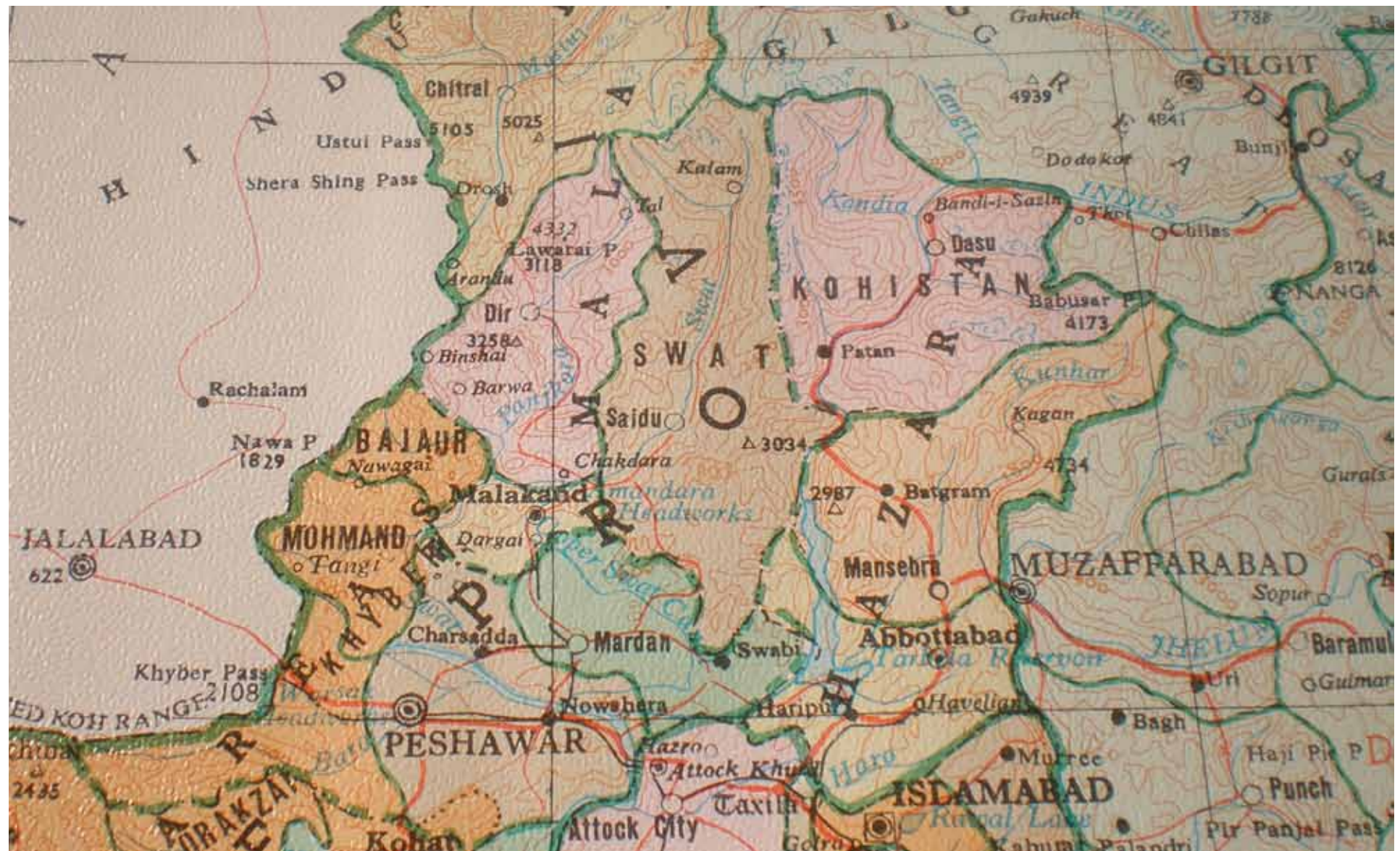


and Colonel Sir Robert Warburton remained as commandant and political officer for unprecedented eighteen years. Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Shariff, was the first Pakistani commandant in October 1947. Khyber Rifles has also participated in Kashmir Campaign of 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 wars, escalations of 2001/02 & 2007/08 besides being the frontline unit in the War against Terror. During these operations Khyber Rifles earned one Sitara-I-Jurat and two Tamgh-I-Jurats. In last decade alone, Khyber Rifles has sacrificed one hundred and one, of its valiant sons in defence of our motherland. The role of Khyber Rifles is multifold. It provides job opportunities and education through its schools. Medical camps are established in remote areas where the tribes only allow Khyber Rifles to enter their territory with smiling face and open heart and under no circumstances allow an officer of Khyber Rifles to leave without having a feast with them. Sports events with these clans are a regular fixture and tribal elders are often guests at Khyber Rifles ceremonies.

Today the Khyber Pass is a peaceful area, where traffic flows around the clock without any fear. A new international standard road from Peshawar to Torkhum is also nearing its completion. Construction of Torkhum border terminal is also in advance stages with its phase I already completed. These mega projects are likely to further strengthen the local economy and attract international tourists to Landi Kotal. No other Regiment in the world can rival the envious list of renowned national and international historymakers which have graced Khyber Rifles especially its Mess.

Khyber Rifles is grateful to Inspector General Frontier Corps, Major General Muhammad Tayyab Azam and his predecessor Lieutenant General Ghayur Mahmood for the initiation of this compilation of history project. Frontier Corps is Romance of Frontier and Khyber Rifles as its oldest corps is the jewel.

My personal thanks and word of praise for the author, Major Aamir Cheema (retired). I first met him over a cup of evening tea in the Khyber Rifles Officer's mess lawn at Landi Kotal on my first day in Khyber Rifles. He fulfils the very first requirement of being a Frontier historian; to have a Romance of Frontier. I am much impressed with his earlier published works. They are unique in a sense that they have been compiled under adverse and dangerous environment. I hope this book is truly reflective of the diversity, professionalism, bravery, tribal culture, hospitality, uniqueness, international status and grace which Khyber Rifles embodies in itself.





Khyber Pass

Geographical Pivot of Sub Continental History

If ever there is one name in Frontier Warfare which is not bounded by language, time, race and is understood all over the world then very rightly it is Khyber Pass and Khyber Rifles

Khyber Pass is the shortest way of movement between Kabul-Peshawar-Lahore-Delhi and onwards to Calcutta in east and towards the Central Asia on west. Pass itself starts almost ten miles west of Peshawar with Jamrud as the base town and then gradual climb with a swindling track (presently FWO is constructing road which is built till Landi Kotal.) Population is thin on both sides of road, which passes through barren lands, void of water and generally dry. The present day road journey despite the under construction road does not take more than two hours to cross and reach Landi Kotal. The ever present long Mercedes trailers coming from Kabul carrying goods and military hardware of NATO, non-custom paid vehicles, lone bus service between Kabul and Peshawar being only daily direct link, and many other vehicles keep it busy from sunrise to sunset. The pass itself has remained open since 9/11 which is a great achievement on part of Khyber Rifles; this by itself is an evidence of the pass's history and divergent culture. In an era when all other passes along Pakistan – Afghan frontier have remained closed for one reason or the other, Khyber Pass contrarily, despite being so vital and being so close to the heart of current wave of militancy has remained open. Closing Khyber Pass is like closing down the link between the Indus Civilisation and Oxus River, between present and past, between modernisation and primitiveness, between liberalism and fundamentalism; it is through Khyber that civilisations meet and interact. Since 1836 when the Sikhs were defeated at Ali Masjid till now the landmarks all along the track have hardly altered with the exception of two; one the house or killa of Haji Ayub Afridi who was once rated as the most honest and hospitable drug smuggler of his time and also had the distinction of firing a shot at former Indian Premier Jawahar Lal Nehru during his speech at Peshawar in 1946; Ayub was a khassadar then. Other is the Miri Mosque where a blast in 2009 killed over 92 tribesmen, mosque has been built anew. The most important landmark on the Khyber is Ali Masjid. The tradition goes that Hazrat Ali, fourth Caliph of Islam had come here and built a mosque; close to mosque is a huge boulder believed to be thrown by Hazrat Ali.

Khyber Agency , area , 2,567 square Kilometres, population, 5,46,730, literacy rate of 34.21%. Agency have three tehsils namely Bara, Jamrud and Landi Kotal, main valleys are Rajgal, Maidan, Bara and Bazaar, where as Khajauri and Bara are major plain areas, two main river are Bara and Chora, average rainfall is 400 mm. Cultivated area is 20,075 hectares with 2070 hectares as forest. Total length of road in agency is 335 Kilometres paved with another 372 Kilometres as unpaved. Two main arteries of communication is Jamrud-Torkham road a 41 Kilometres metallic road, and 64 Kilometres, Landi Kotal-Mullagori-Peshawar road. Political Agent is the head of agency with three assistant political agents, one each at Jamrud, Bara and Landi Kotal, there are seven tehsildars also. In 1973, the Mohmand Agency was carved out of the Khyber Agency. The ratio of male –female in Khyber Agency is 109 males per 100 females.



Historicism of Khyber

Contrary to the rich heritage of the Nile and Euphrates civilization there was nothing in India in the form of hard physical evidence till 1922 when the Indus civilization of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were accidentally discovered, before this there was an oral history of India which was transmitted from generation to generation, since the time immemorial. This history conveyed that there was a culture, a civilization that existed on the banks of the River Indus and inhabited by the dark skinned Dravidians who were destroyed and forced to leave the area by a superior race {Aryans} which was white in colour and much more refined than the aborigines. These Aryans had their gods, they love music and gambling and they were generally scared of their mother in laws and wives, they had a culture in which man and woman were tied in nuptial bonds, all this history comes down to us through series of Vedas, {means knowledge} composed in 11th or 12th century B.C known as Rig-Veda¹.

The Vedas speak of the battles that took place between the Aryans and the Dravidians since it is the history of Aryans themselves thus it highlights that Aryans had no temples, for Aryan his horse was the most sacred and he used it in a chariot, Aryan was fond of warfare, Aryans also had many gods similar to the other two riparian civilizations.

Who were these Aryans? from where they came? and more importantly why they came? the history does not have any unified answer to all these queries, there are many versions and many answers to all these, to some historians these Aryans descended from the high plateaus of the Pamir's the roof of the world, to others they came from the western civilizations of the Nile and Euphrates 'very probably they came from Caspian' but there is none which favors the theory that these Aryans ever came from the east. Nothing can be said with certainty as all theories have their logical points, these Aryans could have descended down the Indus from the high mountains of the north or the north west, equally they could have migrated from the west because they brought along the similar cultural and religious pattern as existed in the west.

Thus history of Khyber Pass is as old as Indus Civilization itself. It has a history of its own and it is the most famous of all the passes which leads to Indus Valley from the highlands of Central Asia; it is the gateway to the India and present day Pakistan. In old time the word India was mainly used for the Indus Valley, Persians called it Hindu, later Greek called it Indica, the natives called it as Sindhu {Sanskrit}². Indus valley was under the Persian control from 500 BC, it was one of the twenty satrapies of Darrius and the Taxila was the richest among all these; other being the present day Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Baluchistan and Kafiristan, to name few. Indus or Indian civilization remains in haze as compared to other old civilizations of Egypt and China. Among the oldest records available; Rig Veda is one script; which narrates the history of Aryans, who migrated from the highlands towards



Alexander the Great

¹ Woodbridge, Hillary & Frank *A History of Asia, Volume I, formation of civilization from antiquity to 1600 AD* {Allyn & Bacon, Boston 1964}, p-131-134

² Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial series NWFP, {government of India, Calcutta, 1908} Volume 20, p-13 Arya Desh was the name of India, Northern Tribes call it India or Hindu as noted by Hsin-Tu in 7th AD, see *The discovery of India*, Jawaharlal Nehru [John Day, New York, 1945], p-63. Chinese called India as Shin-Tu see James Legge, *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms The Chinese Monk Fa-Hien of His Travels in India & Ceylon AD 399-414*, {Oxford, 1886}, p-26. also see John Keay *History of India* {Grover, New York, 2000}, p-57, word for river in Sanskrit is Sindhu.



the plains as part of historical current. In search of better dwellings, Aryan logically followed the water channels leading east which included River Gilgit in the north, in north west followed by River Kabul, River Tochi and River Zhob, all thus acting as passes. Apart from these water passes, the other passes that connected the west-east were and are Mintaka, Broghul, Nawagai, Khyber, Tirah and Kurram to name few; but none has attained the glamour, charisma, romance, importance and has caused as much convulsion as Khyber Pass. The Satapatha Brahman narrates how people of India moved from east to west; the route along the foothills of the mountains the Himalayas was known as Uttarapatha or the northerly route and Daksinapatha the southerly route³.

Khyber Pass or Pakistan/India's history in a sense starts with Herodotus's 'Historia' in which he mentioned the social life pattern of Indus; but it is also a fact that he never came physically towards this part and thus his all accounts are based upon secondary sources. There is always a watermark in the history and to great extent history of Indus starts with the invasion of **Alexander the Great** in 323 BC, who brought along with him a batch of historians to record the events but unfortunately nothing has even survived of that in true sense. It was Arrian who almost three hundred years after Alexander's death wrote the history of his sojourn in India {70AD} thus even Arrian account cannot be taken with full authenticity.



Alexander had established a city with his name Alexandria almost 25 miles north east of Kabul and it is from this base that he entered into the present day Pakistan⁴; he had divided his forces into two groups one advanced through Khyber Pass under Hephaestion and Perdikkas⁵ and he personally elected the indirect route the one which probably led him through present day Kafirstan - Swat-Bajaour {Aspasians-Guraeans-Assacenians}⁶. The Greeks which entered India through Khyber Pass were offered resistance by the city of Peucelaotis {probably present day Peshawar} resultantly the governor of the city was killed in the battle which took place after a siege of thirty days.

3 John Keay *India a History*, {Grover press, New York, 2000} pp 41-47.

4 Arrian *The Campaigns of Alexander* translated by Aubrey de Selincourt {Penguin, 1971}, p-194.

5 Yenne Bill *Alexander The Great*, {Palgrave, McMillan, New York, 2010} pp-134-135, Lionel Pearson *The Lost Histories of Alexander The Great*, {scholar Press, Chicago, 1983}, p-1. Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich *Gates of India, being an historical narrative*, 1910. {Quetta, Al Nisa, 1977} pp, 94-97.

6 Arrian, p-240.



India after Alexander's retreat was divided among his generals with three major centres of importance emerging namely Kabul in the west, Taxila in the centre and Magdha in the east on Ganges. Other important towns like Multan in the south on Chenab and Peshawar on Kabul river in north assumed greater importance due to east-west movement.

In the history of Khyber Pass and Khyber Rifles, the area west of Indus and Peshawar remain important. Tribes living astride the Hindu Kush are descendants of the same Aryan stock which migrated from the Central Asia and many kept on moving towards the east of Indus and adopted agricultural life style and other preferred to live astride the river banks and passes. They all are invariably interlinked with each other in one way or the other, with minor difference of origin. Greek invasion was followed by *Sakas and Parthians*, whereas Sakas are believed to be coming from the Bactria, the Parthians are believed to be Persian tribes⁷. The invaders were not restricted to the old armies of the Greek and Persia but the Chinese tribes of Yeuh-Chi also had their share. They were known as Khushans, Kanishke, Hepthalites or Ephthalites and the Greek referred to them as **White Huns**⁸. They were in power over the north western part of India; the present day northern Pakistan from 78 AD onwards till 260 AD; they had Kashmir {Ki-Pin} Bactria {Ta-Hia} Kabul {Kao-Fu} and India {Tien-Chu} under their suzerainty. The Chandragupta and later Asoka ruled the Ganges after Alexander's death but had feeble control over the Kabul.

The five hundred years after the death of Asoka has been described by the historians as the 'dark age of India'⁹ 'one of the darkest in the whole range of Indian history'.¹⁰ India after the Asoka plunged into anarchy with a wave of invaders invading in succession and on regular basis from the northern India, to be more precise from the north western India, and as such name Khyber becomes important.

Islam and its impact on Khyber

The name Khyber has its history interlink with the early days of Islam. Battle of Khyber near Medina is one of the most famous ghazwa of that era and Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed stands out as the most coveted and successful general of Islam. The oral native history thus claims to have a direct link with these two names, they accepted Islam on the hands of Khalid bin Waleed. In another such local oral history the famous Ali Masjid which is the narrowest part of the pass is named after the conqueror of Khyber of Medina, Hazrat Ali.

Empirically, it is difficult to accept these oral histories because Hazrat Ali never led an army so far neither did Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed. However this particular history highlights the tribal pride in being associated with the great warriors of Islam; around this tribal pride revolves the history of pass and that of Khyber Rifles. Islam made its mark with Arabs chasing Persians and defeating the alliance of Chinese and Turk in a series of

7 K.C. Sagar *Foreign influence on Ancient India*, {Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 1992}, p-121-122. *History of Ancient Iran Volume 3 Part 7*, Richard Frye {Ballantine, Colchester, 1984} p-178. *Ancient India Social History some interpretations* {Orient longman, Hyderabad, 1979} p-157.

8 *India*, Majumdar, p-34

9 Jawaharlal Nehru *The Discovery of India*, [John Day, New York, 1945], p-92 Ibid, p-101.

10 Munshi, Majumdar & Pusalka *History & Culture of the Indian People, Volume 3, Classical Age*, {Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1954}, p-xlii also see Nehru, p-127.



battles¹¹ ranging from 650-750 AD; fought west of Khyber Pass. East of pass were non Muslim Aryans stretching their rule over present day Chitral, Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; population was very thin and so was the density

Qutaibah ibn Muslim between 710-715 conquered the Central Asia especially the Bactria and Ferghana valley the heart land of the Turks. Samarkand and Bukhara came under Muslim rule in 715¹², these Turks were nomadic tribes originating from the Mongolian steppes. In 751 AD, a decisive battle between the Muslims and the Turks who also had the support of the Chinese army as well not only routed Turks but also put an end to the Chinese rule in the area for another thousand years. Turks established the first Islamic dynasty in Central Asia under the name of Samanids. By 1100 AD, an Islamic state was established in India with capital at Delhi under the Turk sultans; the real history of Khyber starts from now.

Islam took birth in 570 AD, at Arabia and within a short span of time it changed the history of present day Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and India. Kabul came under Muslim control in 655 AD, from the infidels but went out of the Islamic sphere in 700 AD. By 712 AD Islamic forces were knocking at the doors of India, the first major onslaught came from south through the sea and land adjoining it in an easterly direction from Iran and after defeating the Hindu raja close to the ancient town of Moen jo Daro it halted at Multan.

Ghazna & Ghor

By the end of first millennium, the area astride Indus as far as Kabul was in chaos with no single power having authority, Hindu rajas were in control of Kabul, Peshawar, and Bannu rather the upper Dikhsahan was under their sway. The tide turned when the Turks after embracing Islam established the Muslim state at Ghazna, soon they defeated the Hindu rajas and when the Great Mahmood of Ghazna ascended the throne he practically reduced the whole of India as vassal state of Ghazna. The invading Turks were not regarded as invaders, rather as brethren of Islam. Ghazna was destroyed by the neighbouring Ghor and India also passed from the hands of the Ghaznavities to Ghorids. Shihab Ud Din Ghor was initially resisted by the Ganga Valley but he defeated all semblance of resistance very next year. From 1206-1526 A.D, India or more specifically all the three riparian civilisations were under the control of Muslims who were chiefly Turks and Afghans. Shihab Ud Din Ghor had no male heir and he appointed three governors in occupied India. Qutub



Emperor Babur founder of Mughul dynasty

¹¹ Brigadier S.K. Malik *The Muslim Conquest of Central Asia*, {Rawalpindi, Army Education Press, 1981} pp, 65-79.

¹² Ibid.



Ud Din Aibak, one of the governors, was regarded very highly by the late Shihab Ud Din Ghor and his rank was raised. Aibak succeeded Ghor, after a civil war. Different rulers followed Aibak and established their respective Sultanates¹³ at Delhi including Mamluks from 1206-1290 A.D., Khiljis from 1290 – 1320 A.D., Tughluqs from 1320 – 1414 A.D., the Sayyids with effect from 1414-1451 A.D. and Lodhis from 1451 till 1526 A.D., who were finally defeated by Babur of Fergana who founded the Moghul dynasty after crushing the Muslim Sultan of Delhi {Sultan Lodhi was an Afghan}. Thus the key reason of later insurgency and rebellion on the Khyber Pass and surroundings was mainly rooted in racism, the tribal conflict between the Afghans and Moghuls.¹⁴

Mongols & Mughuls

In previous three centuries before establishment of Mughul Empire, the invaders like Genghis Khan and Tamerlane¹⁵ passed through this range and pass. Finally it was Babur of Fergana who in 15th century crossed the Khyber Pass and established the Mughul rule in India. Mughul empire later not only protected the native population from the raids of mountain tribes of Afghanistan but also adopted a more liberal approach towards the non-believers with varying degree of freedom. Afghanistan did not exist as a country under Mughuls¹⁶, Kabul the main city acted as a base camp for the Babur, other important cities like Kandahar, Herat, Khiva, Bukhara were ruled by the native tribes and might is right was the law. It was Akbar the Great who had Kandahar under his rule; another Mughul King Shah Jehan did try to capture the Central Asia and was successful for a short time to keep imperial forces at Fergana. Babur and his descendants have one unique quality that almost all of them wrote autobiographies or authorized biographies, shedding light on the life and times. Mughul rule had its roots in Central Asia and thus Pass became important; many attempts were therefore, made to have it properly secure under their control but such attempts partially succeeded after very heavy cost, insurgency and rebellions were faced by them till the end of their empire in 18th century. Mughuls however can be credited for constructing the first vehicle worthy road through the Pass and Akbar the Great's engineer Qasim Jan was the one who constructed the road in Khyber which was fit enough for wheel traffic in 1581.¹⁷

A constant armed friction and attrition remained among the Mughals and Pathans throughout the former's rule. One source of this ill feeling was Emperor Akbar's patronage of non-Muslims in which many Hindus were given important posts in the empire. Soon after appointment of Maan Singh as governor of Kabul in 1585 A.D; the Mughal forces were inflicted humiliating defeat in 1587 at Swat & Bajaur. In 1620 another crushing defeat was inflicted upon the Mughals at Tirah. Mughals were able to bring Peshawar under their control in 1630. Raja Jagat Singh kept Kohat & Bannu under Mughal sphere to keep the communication open towards Kabul through Northern Waziristan. It was at Khyber that Mughals faced the worst defeat when over 40,000 troops were annihilated in 1672 followed by defeat at Gandak in 1673 and then another defeat in 1674 at Khapash.

13 The rulers who ruled India before the Moghuls have been termed as Delhi Sultans and the empire is termed as Delhi Sultanate.

14 *Imperial Gazetteer of North West Frontier Province*, 1905, {Lahore, Sang Meel, 2002}, pp.12-26.

15 Tamerlane or Amir Timur, set out from Samarkand in 1398 AD, and by March 1399 was out of India.

16 Charles, Miller, *Khyber, The Story Of The North West Frontier*, {McDonald & Jane's London, 1977}, pp xiii.

17 *Darbar I Akbari*, history of Akbar the Great translated from Persian by Moulana Muhammad Azad, First edition 1910. p-6.



The Mughal Massacre – 1672 A.D

It was in the spring of 1672 AD, that the Mughal Governor of Kabul Mohammad Amin left Peshawar for Kabul. In the meantime in Kunar, the Mughal soldiers had embarrassed a Safi girl and the Safis had killed three Mughal soldiers in retaliation. Hussain Beg, the Hakim (ruler) of Kunar attacked the Safis but was defeated. Mohammad Amin therefore collected a huge force against the Safis. With the news of his starting for Kabul, the Afridis, Shinwari and Mohmand rose to help the Safis and occupied Khyber. Aimal Khan Mohmand and Darya Khan Afridi led this lashkar. The Mughal forces reached Ali Masjid and Lowargai (Landikotal) easily but when they reached a defile between Lowargai and Landi Khana, they were encircled and the road was blocked. The Mughal attack failed and they started retreating, closely pursued by the lashkars with swords. According to Khushhal Khan Khattak, forty thousand Mughal soldiers perished in the battle. The remaining force retreated to Peshawar.

Nadir Shah's Battle

The Khyber continued to remain in disrupted communication for some time after the 1672 Mughal massacre. In 1738, India was invaded by 'Nadir Shah' of Iran. He stormed into India by southern route i.e. Gomal, Zhob-Multan but he returned via Khyber Pass. He was intercepted by a Afridi lashkar between Ali Masjid and Lowargai. His army was saved from total annihilation by the gallant front put up by Ahmed Shah Abdali and his other Afghan mercenaries. Even then he did not had a safe passage, until he had paid a heavy toll in cash to the Afridis who had blocked the defile.

In the subsequent rule of Ahmed Shah Abdalli, the Kabul had its authority extended till the Sutlej River having Peshawar, Lahore, Kashmir and Multan under its control; yet the Khyber Pass was never totally under the Kabul's control; it was free and belonged to the Afridis. Ahmed Shah died in 1773, and succeeded by his son Timur Shah who ruled peacefully for another twenty years till when he died in 1793. It was he who constructed the post which is now infamous as the Tamerlane prison; it is precisely at the same defile where the Mughul massacre took place almost a hundred years prior to his rule.

The history of Afghanistan after the death of Timur Shah Zaman is mainly a history of intrigue and strife between two clans, namely Saddozai and Barrackzai. Afghans trace their origin to Turen, who had two sons namely Panjpay and Zeerak; Panjpay had five sons, from whom five families are descended; The Alizye, Ishakzye, Nurzye, Marku and Konjani. On the other hand Zeerak had three sons, the Popalzye or Saddozai, Alukzye and Barukzye. Collectively these Zyes have been called as Durrani since the time of Ahmed Shah, who himself took the name Durrani, before this they were known as Abdali.

In 16th century Afridis collected Rupees 125000 equivalent {calculated in 1961} from Mughul Empire in addition to individual levies on each traveller, by 1865, they were charging a levy of rupees 5 from each laden camel {rupees 3 if the load was food}, Rupees 3 per horseman and one and half rupee per unladen camel or pedestrian.



Sikh Empire, 1799-1846

Sikhism took birth in Punjab in 1520 A.D., and despite having Muslim Sufi saints teachings as part of their religion; they were treated at times harshly by the Mughals notably by Aurangzeb. Nevertheless this enmity was not purely on religious grounds but also had the spice of royal politics as well. In 1762, Ahmad Shah Abdalli's forces on their way back after plundering Delhi were attacked by the Sikh Misl which were concentrated east of River Jhelum. 1799, marks the end of Afghan Empire when Sikhs under Ranjeet Singh entered Lahore and slowly but gradually the Afghan Empire established by Ahmad Shah Abdalli started shrinking. Sikhs entry towards the west of Indus started with the capitulation of Mankera and its Nawab in 1822. Very next year Ranjeet Singh marched across Indus and marched through Isa Khel and Marwat territory and in 1836, Bannu was made part of the Sikh empire after the defeat of Nawab of Dera.

In 1834, Sikhs overpowered Afghans at Nowshehra, and Peshawar along with Kohat came under their control. It was at Jamrud in 1837 that this tide was checked, and with the death of Ranjeet Singh in 1839 the Sikh Empire similar to so many other empires stared at the writing on the wall. Sikhs did not have an easy and comprehensive control over the territory and people living on the western bank of River Indus. Yet through a blend of diplomacy and militancy, Ranjeet was able to have his forces in Peshawar¹⁸ and for a short time had the control over the Khyber Pass as well. Kabul and Lahore thus remained embroiled in a constant war of attrition.

Sikh empire had a short life but it had a deep impact on the coming events. It was an independent kingdom which was not subject to King of Delhi or the East India Company. Sikhs at their own, under some of the most brilliant generals including Hari Singh Nalwa took the Afghans head on and pushed them back. Ranjeet Singh was an able ruler and a shrewd one too. He had European officers as part of his army; he introduced the existing standards of drill and organization in khalsa army. One beauty of his army was its ethnic and religious composition, Muslims, Hindus and Christians all served together. The very first governor of Peshawar was French who was serving under Ranjeet. Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh and Hari Singh Nalwa were the two well known administrators of Peshawar under Sikh rule. Raja Tej Singh ruled for six years and in 1845 General Sardar Sher Singh was at power in Peshawar. *Before venturing into the history from this point onward it is pertinent to have a look at varying geographical and demographical aspects of Khyber Pass.*

Khyber Pass and Afridi

Khyber Pass and Afridi tribe have become synonym to each other, Afridi is an Aryan tribe. The other tribes of Khyber are Shinwari, Mullagori and Shilman but they are on the northern side and even among them only Shinwari are in some strength but still no match to Afridi. One thing in common among all of them is that they all are Muslims and practice Sunni fiqh. The Afridi are a famous, large and powerful tribe, their summer retreat and homeland is Tirah, which is about 900 square miles of hilly country, to their west is the Province of Ningrahar, and to their south lies Kurram Agency. The Afridis are divided into eight major clans: Adam Khel, Aka Khel, Kamar Khel, Kambar Khel, Kuki Khel, Malikdin Khel, Sipah

¹⁸ Khullar, *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*. {Hem, New Delhi, 1980}. pp-48-52, pp 121-129.



and Zakkha Khel. The major portion of the Afridi tribe lives on east of Durand Line, with the exception of a small portion of the Zakkha Khels, who have their villages in Ningrahar Province across the mountain, through which the Durand Line is marked.

Khyber Pass is the artery of civilizations which flow with the flow of water. At Khyber, Kabul River enters into the vale of Peshawar, through Hindukush in a gentle manner. River Kabul has water of Turch Mir & Pamir and with it came Aryans 2000BC from the northern highlands, then came Alexander the Great 323 BC, he thus brought with him a collection of all known civilization treasures which included artists, craftsmen, writers, and warriors, from, Greece, Nile, Tigris, Mesopotamia, Persia and Amu Darya. These, then settled down along the pass as it became the artery of civilization.

Afridi, out of the eight clans the two who live astride it Kuki Khel & Zakkha Khel are the most numerous, Kuki holds the eastern mouth and Zakkha Khel the western. Shinwaris are on the northern edge in majority confronting Zakkha Khel, the Shilman and Mullagori, all these six are collectively known as **Khyberis**. {Kuki Khel, Zakkha Khel, Malik Din Khel, Mullagori, Shilman, and Shinwari}.

They have the best of everything, good honourable men, liberal, realistic, most prosperous traders. Hamza Shinwari is buried here; he is to Khyber what Robert Burns is to Scotland. As late as in 1957 they shot travellers/foreigners for taking pictures of them without permission. These two clans Kuki Khel & Zakh Khel have the lion's share in world's drug market. Zakh Khel cultivates charas and Kuki Khel process it and smuggle it to anywhere in world. Haji Ayub Afridi Zakkha Khel is a legend in his own way, as a khassadar he fired on Nehru in Peshawar in 1946 and then emerged as the king of heroin, today there is a village named after him; Ayub Afridi cannot be termed as criminal in any sense because he fought his case in USA by going there on his own and won a clean chit.

Khyber Pass has a length of 33 miles extending from Jamrud which is eight miles west of Peshawar having an elevation of 1900 feet, traversing westward through a gradual ascend amidst barren and rocky mountains in a continuous slow and gradual climb passing through Shagai which is at 3000 feet elevation and then the narrowest part of pass at Ali Masjid couple of miles west of Shagai, again opening up and reaching Landai Kotal which is at 3500 feet and the highest point of the pass and from here a descend starts which takes a traveller down to Michni and into Landai Khanna which marks the culmination point of the pass; eight miles west of Landai Kotal. Pass itself can be classified into three main portions; from east the initial part is from Jamrud till Shagai with Baghiari defile overlooking the entrance known as lower Khyber, from Shagai till Landi Kotal is the central Khyber and then from Landai Kotal till Landai Khanna is the lower Khyber.



Ancient Bhuddist ruins at Khyber Pass, close to Ali Masjid



Kabul River marks the northern boundaries of the pass. Geographically the northern area between Kabul river when it enters into the plains of Peshawar till the southern part where it joins River Indus near Attock is a large curve, just like a moon in its mid phase. The southern end is Kohat{ Khushal Bridge on Indus}moving west and north ward it is inhabited by eight clans of Afridis. The midpoint of this curve or moon is the Tirah Valley which is green and has an elevation of 6000 feet, with height of more than 12000 feet surrounding it. This curve encompasses the valley of Bara River which has its origin in Tirah and logically even Peshawar is part of the Afridi clan as it falls west of River Kabul; therefore the east-west movement has to pass through this moon which have two major passes; Tirah Pass and Khyber Pass. Going through the pages of history one can find countless invaders going through them but surprisingly there are no ancient ruins along the Khyber Pass indicating remnants of their journey. At Landai Kotal which is the plateau, logic demands to have the ancient or even Mughul era structures in the form of fort and garrison but surprisingly there is no such landmark left by the past rulers which by itself negates the very concept of this pass being the artery of past. If Mughuls can construct fort at Attock, then sheer absence of such in the pass or even at the mouth of pass on both ends is highly conspicuous and open to debate, which will continue to remain in focus for times to come. There is only one ancient ruin between Ali Masjid and Landi Kotal; a Buddhist Stupa which is 25 feet in height and still has certain marks of ancient language. It is believed that this Stupa was built during the reign of Asoka {310-232 BC} but same claim has not been authenticated scientifically. One most logical answer is the absence of water on the western mouth of pass thus old caravans tend to follow the River Kabul to reach into Peshawar having water all along. Old historians and biographers have used a variety of words for the same pass thus it seems that when the word Khyber is used then it speaks of the area between the Landai Khanna – Shilman on west and the ridge line from Jamrud-Shilman on the east. If the traveller or invader wants to reach Indus then he can walk/ride these thirty odd miles in a night but by following Kabul River it cannot cross Hindukush in one night; therefore Khyber Pass became a pass for invaders and Kabul river for trade.

Taking local oral history as the yard stick, the overall complex of history changes and one hears of fierce battles conducted at almost every stone of the pass. Among all the



Afridi graveyard at Bazar Zakkha Khel, they have mark resemblance with the culture of Kafirs



old names the name Kafir Kot stands out. It is the ridge which primarily runs south of the pass overlooking it till Torkham. Its peaks do have strands of past, the name itself is linked with the Kafirstan, a province of Afghanistan in past is now known as Nuristan, also some portion within Pakistan's Chitral district where a tribe still exists having Kafirstan and known as Kafir. There seems to be an influence of Kafirs upon Khyber and Afridis.

British Raj & Great Game

On 31st December 1600 A.D., Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to 'The Company of Merchants of London trading unto the East Indies.' On 11th January 1613 A.D., the Mughul Emperor Jahangir issued a firman to establish a factory at Surat to Captain Best the company's representative. In 1625 A.D., a trading centre was established at Masulipatam (Madras) and in 1634 a trading factory was established at Piplée (Bengal). Later these factories and trading centres were fortified and troops, some British some natives were employed for the protection, in 1698 A.D., a new Company of Merchants received its charter, and in 1708 A.D., both companies were amalgamated under the title of The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies or East India Company. Thus old factory areas became the presidencies of Bombay, Madras and Bengal each having its own army commanded by separate commander in chief who also was the president answerable to directors at London, thus military and politics came under one head with sole aim of increasing the profit. In 1757 A.D., the first Indian Regiment was organised onto European pattern it had native troops but officers were all British it was known as 'Lal Paltan', it had three British officers several British non commissioned officers, 42 Indian officers and 820 Indian rank and file, From 1800 A.D., onwards the British East India Company felt the threat from Napoleon who was presumed to be making an alliance with the Russians and in this regards the Company made a treaty with the Maharajah Ranjit Singh of Punjab and also sent officers for intelligence gathering towards Persia which resulted in a treaty with the Shah in 1807 A.D., soon the threat of Napoleon subsided however the Russians remained a distant reality.



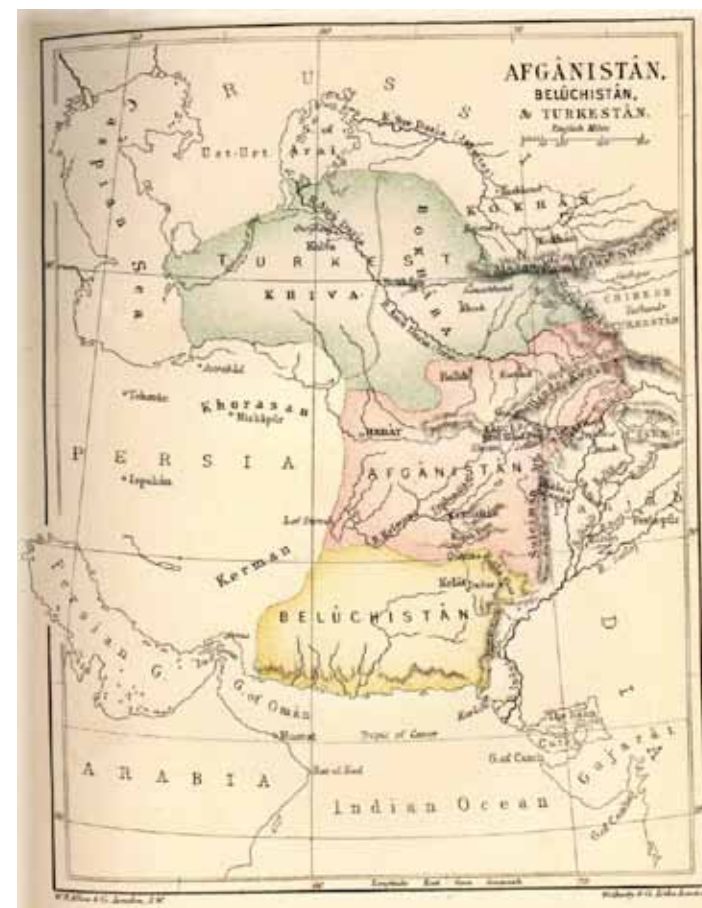


In 1809-09 two important missions were sent from India , one to the Persia and other to Afghanistan, the Elphinstone- Shah Shuja meeting at Peshawar. Shah Shuja was cordial although at this stage {1809} the fear of Napoleon had passed way but nevertheless at that time the importance of having friendly ruler at Kabul was still there, Shah Shuja agreed to keep the French and Russians out of Afghanistan in return for a subsidy under which BEIC promised to provide military support to Shah Shuja only against the combined forces of French and Persians¹⁹. BEIC treated Afghanistan not as a single entity rather as a conglomeration of city states which included Kabul, Kandahar and Herat²⁰. The wheel of history turned faster and while he was still fresh from signing the treaty, his half brother the blind Mahmud and Fateh Khan Baarkzai marched into Kandahar, Shah Shuja had to leave Peshawar and was duly defeated at Gandamak a village west of Jalalabad. Shah Shuja escaped and sought asylum at Ludhiana where his brother Zaman Shah was already living in exile.

First Afghan War

Modern history of Khyber Pass starts with the First Afghan War. The pattern of present day war in Afghanistan seems to be an extension of the First Afghan War; The war itself cannot be numerically expressed in duration. The British initiated the campaign in 1839 and by 1840 aim was achieved in having the choice ruler in Kabul, then a series of administrative actions all in line with notion of civilisation but fatally contrary to tribal culture, thereby a catastrophic military and political disaster for them. As the events of history shows that, this pattern was again performed in 1878, later by Russians in 1978 and now by the United States of America led military coalition, 2001-2015.

In 1834, Shah Shuja left Ludhiana with the consent of British at the head of 22000 Afghans to capture Kabul, he adopted the Quetta – Kandahar route, Quetta was an Afghan province. Kandahar at that time was held by Khundeil Khan the brother of Dost Muhammad, who came to the rescue of him and defeated the Shah Shuja. Shah Shuja forces were led by an adventurer Scot by the name of Campbell. Now Dost Muhammad after the victory proclaimed himself to be amir instead of shah and power came in the hands of Barakzai for the first time, Ranjit on the other hand had annexed Peshawar while Dost Muhammad was away at Kandahar.



19 *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to Federally & Provincially Administered Tribal Areas, Kashmir and Afghanistan*, rearranged and reprinted under the authority of Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas and States and Frontier regions, Islamabad, 1997.pp, 50-54.

20 In the 1809 Treaty, term Afghanistan is not used rather King of Dooranees and State of Cabool have been employed. Afghanistan word is used in the 1855-Treaty of Peshawar.



Dost Muhammad first act soon after coronation was an attempt to conquer the Peshawar back; in a master stroke of diplomacy Ranjit met Dost Muhammad who had, marched down with an army, Ranjit was able to create dissension among the Afghan camp and Dost had to return empty hand.

In order to repel the shadow the Russian aggression we had resolved to force Shah Shuja a weak and worthless exile , upon the Afghan people till then well disposed towards us and this great and unprovoked injustice the cause of all our subsequent troubles in Afghanistan was to be effected by military measures of which the rashness and folly seem at the present day almost inconceivable. The objects of the expedition were two fold , first the overthrow of the Barkzai dynasty and the restoration of Shah Shuja to the throne of his fathers; secondly the relief or capture of Herat, then besieged by the Persians with Russian countenance and aid.²¹

British failed in diplomacy to achieve their aim and therefore the **First Anglo Afghan War in 1839**. Ranjeet Singh did not allowed large scale troops of BEIC to march through his territory which was the most feasible in terms of logistics; that stands out as a master piece of diplomacy. They opted to have the forces marched towards capital Kabul from the south of Afghanistan, crossing the southernmost pass of India, the Bolan Pass.



Plan was to have 20,000 British troops to march from Ferozpur towards the Kandahar through the Sind covering a distance of 850 miles. By end January 1839, British {Bengal and Bombay columns under Sir John Keane} crossed River Indus at Sukkur and marry up with Shah Shuja and his troops. On 10th March , advancing army was at Dabur, eastern mouth of Boaln Pass. after much suffering and pain it stood to its name and reached Kandahar on 27th April 1839. On 23rd July , Ghazna which lies 230 miles north east of Kandahar was captured and on 4th August 1839 , Dost Muhammad fled from Kabul; thus ended the first phase of the First Afghan War and as apparent, Khyber Pass had no role to play in it. It is the from this point onwards that the modern history of Khyber Pass starts.²²

21 Sir Percy Skyes, Mortimar Durand, p-73.

22 Vigne G.T. *A personal narrative of a visit to Ghuzni, Kabul and Afghanistan and of a residence at the court of Dost Muhammad with notices of Ranjit Singh, Khiva and the Russian Expedition*, reprinted 1982 by Sang e Meel Lahore, pp-267-325.

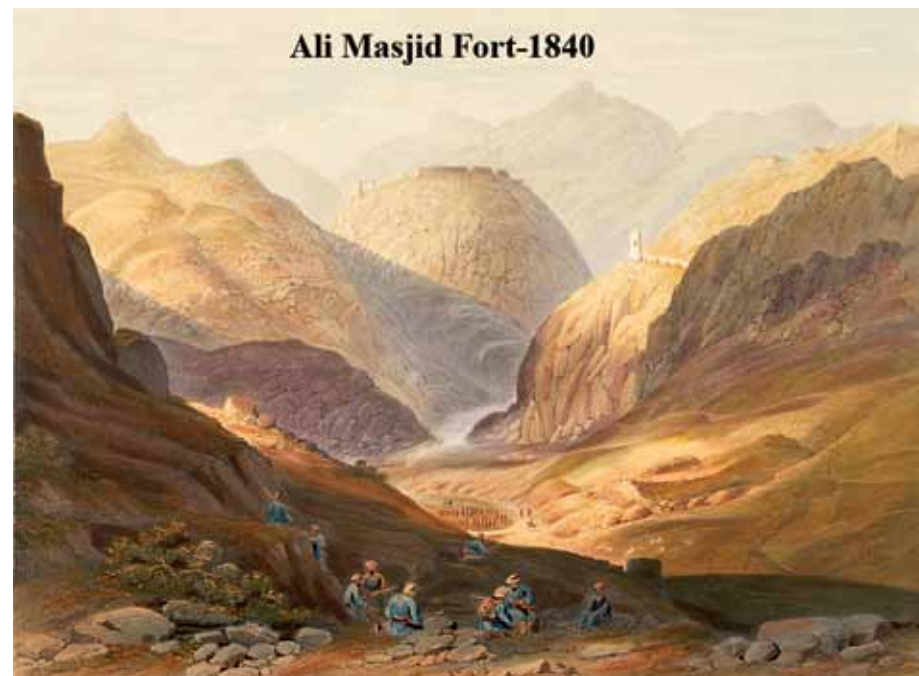


Khyber Pass, Afridi & British.

After capturing Kabul, Shah Shuja was put on throne, the very first step of Shah Shuja and the British was to get the heir Prince Timor Shah son of Shah Shuja from India to Kabul and Colonel Wade, the political agent with Maharaja Ranjeet Singh accomplished this task, by first capturing the Ali Masjid fort and then reaching an agreement with the Khyberis for a peaceful passage through the Khyber Pass. On 18th September 1839, the Bombay column started their march back to India through Khyber Pass and on 14th October 1839, Sir John Keane the commander in chief of British forces at Afghanistan left Kabul for India through Khyber Pass, it just highlights the sense of security which the British had after the fall of Kabul.

The situation at Kabul was so peaceful outwardly that the British officers started bringing their families to Kabul. British force at Kabul soon sent an escort through Khyber Pass to bring the families from India, political officers were posted at Quetta, Kandahar, Herat, Kabul, Jalalabad and Peshawar.

In the first week of November 1839; Khyber Pass underwent a drastic transition from the peaceful passage of the soldiers and commanders which passed through it, suddenly in November 1839, a Sikh Battalion was annihilated and two native regiments almost met the same fate; all near Ali Masjid. Sir George Lawrence calls it 'Treachery of Khyberrees'²³. However, the diary of Captain Lowe, who was part of the escort reveals that it was more of 'not keeping the words' by British East India Company officials which resulted in the massacre. Now the diary of Captain Lowe of 16th Lancers, he was at Ali Masjid on 3rd November 1839, and he records.



Musgrave Sally – Ali Masjid

On 1st November 1839, the Ali Masjid fort which was under the Sikh occupation with one native infantry and one Nazib Battalion { Muslims employed by Sikh}, the Nazib battalion was at the summit when it was attacked, it ran short of ammunition and while retreating it was attacked by Khyberis 'swooped down like lightning upon them and either killed or dispersed the whole battalion which consisted of eight hundred men.. two hundred and sixty have been buried and about two hundred made their way to Peshawar; of the remainder nothing is unknown'. Captain Lowe visited the

²³ Sir George Lawrence *Reminiscences of Forty-Three Years in India*, edited by W. Edwards, first published in 1874, reprinted Sang-E-Meel, Lahore, 1999, p-32.



site which was half a mile away from his camp; 'stench from the partially buried bodies was so great that it was barely possible to remain there. The back ground of this massacre reflects upon the history and causes of violence in the pass. Colonel Wade the British official at Lahore had promised the Khyberis while he was passing through in 1839 for the payment of allowances and tributes, when he was travelling back from Kabul to Peshawar he was reminded again by the Khyberis of his past commitment, Colonel Wade again made a promise but it was never fulfilled and resultantly the massacre took place. The chiefs honourably fulfilled their promise, several small parties of officers passed through the Khyber and not one was molested or interfered with, to use the term of the chiefs, women and children might carry gold through the pass'.²⁴

At this stage the British political agent Major Mackeson reached an agreement with the Khyber Pass Afridis 'From Jalalabad, the envoy proceeded with an escort to Peshawar in order to meet with and if possible to conciliate, the turbulent tribes in that neighbourhood.

The political agent Major Mackeson, whose headquarters were at Peshawar and the fort of Ali Masjid in the Khyber, had, we were informed just succeeded in concluding a treaty with the Khyberis by which they bound themselves on certain conditions very favourable to themselves to keep





the pass open for the unmolested passage of our troops and people at all times'.²⁵

Thus an envoy with 37th and 48th Native regiments under Colonel Wheeler as escort marched from Jalalabad and on 22nd November 1839, the baggage column was attacked as it entered the narrow gorge.²⁶ It was attacked by 300 tribesmen who looted the camels numbering 150 and then vanished into mountains, it took place after signing of the agreement between the British political agent Major Mackeson, there by George Lawrence has termed it as treachery. Lesson from history; Words and commitment have, honour and importance in the pass and in dealing with the tribes.

Massacre of British Army, Winter of 1841-42

The British instead of withdrawing opted to stay at Kabul. It was more off imperial mindset than anything else, for the trading company and for Lord Auckland it was the high point where a colony has been made in the extreme west. McNaughton the political officer now started playing the politics but it backfired miserably. The cost of expedition was the paramount issue and all efforts were made to reduce it. Even now the austerity drives of many countries usually starts from cutting the allowances and perks of junior officials which normally have no or very little bearing on the overall costs.

In Afghanistan or more particularly in the orient, the allowances paid to the tribes are the best surety of peace, the allowances of key tribes including the Ghilzais were cut down, it was done more drastically in the autumn of 1841, Ghilzais occupies the area between the Kabul and Jalalabad; Brigadier Sale was move from Kabul to overcome this rebellion which he did after hot clash which resulted in his being closed in the Gandamak Fort.

All hell broke loose on 2nd November 1841, when the Kabul Regency was attacked, burnt and destroyed over pay issue. British garrison at

²⁵ Sir George Lawrence *Reminiscences of Forty-Three Years in India*, edited by W. Edwards, first published in 1874, reprinted Sang-E-Meel, Lahore, 1999, p-32.

²⁶ Ibid, p-33.





Kabul was attacked and Burnes was killed, General Elphinstone was weak and indecisive, Akbar Khan a son of Dost Muhammad was calling the shot,

British troops, officers and their families along with followers were allowed to leave the Kabul for Jalalabad under General Elphinstone leaving behind six hostages including Colonel Warburton senior. The force never even made it to the Jalalabad which is the midpoint between Kabul and Khyber Pass, it was practically killed, maimed, destroyed by the natives at will, the way a vulture looks at its prey. There was only one survivor Doctor Brydon who managed to drag himself into the Jalalabad garrison with sheer will power. Out of the original 16000 troops[4500 troops and 12000 followers} only one escaped death to narrate the events, this was the single most worst military disaster that felt upon the BEIC since their formation.²⁷

The First Anglo Afghan War did achieved for a brief time a friendly Afghan ruler, the Shah Shuja at Kabul, however Afghans revolted against Shah Shuja and British Consulate at Kabul was burnt in 1841²⁸, thus ended the sphere of influence in Afghanistan for the British, Dost Muhammad was back to throne and this time he ruled till his death in 1863.

Khyber Pass in true sense now became the life saviour blood line for the British prestige and the very stake of India depends upon its being in friendly hands. In the preliminary act, British Raj, made an attempt to occupy Ali Masjid, it was partial success as Lieutenant Colonel Mosley and his force did capture Ali Masjid but followed up troops under Brigadier Wade on 15th January 1842, failed to rendezvous, as Afridis sensing the threat simply closed the Khyber Pass and occupied heights. Resultantly, Brigadier Wade had to march back to Jamrud. In April 1842, General Pollock was able to march through Khyber Pass. British army, retreated from Afghanistan through Khyber Pass, in three divisions, first under General Pollock came out safely, second division under General M'Caskill, his one brigade was overtaken by Afridis at night, rear guard of General Nott's was also attacked on November 5th and 6th 1842, at Landi Khana and Lalabagh and again on leaving Ali Masjid.²⁹



An Afghan Princess whom Colonel Warburton Senior married at Kabul in 1840. Khyber Rifles Museum

27 Ibid p.64.

28 Azmat, Hayat, *The Durand Line its Geo-Strategic Importance* {Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar, 2000} pp 63-64.

29 *Imperial Gazetteer North West Frontier Province, 1903*, {Lahore Sang Meel, 2002} p-230.



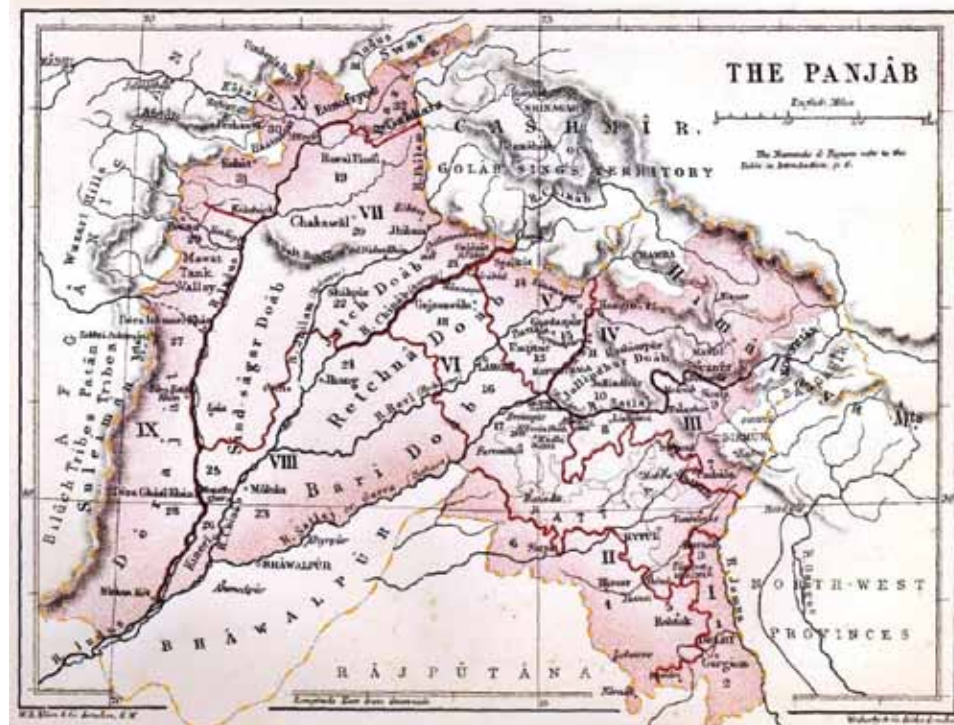
Khyber Pass & Anglo-Afghan-Sikh Wars

After the death of Ranjeet Singh the Sikh empire collapsed, waging two valiant wars against the British. First Anglo – Sikh War { 1845 – 1846 } resulted in cessation of certain areas of Punjab to the British including Kashmir, the resultant Second Anglo - Sikh War {1848 – 1849} resulted in annexation of Punjab by the BEIC, with Sir Henry Lawrence {1806 – 1857} and his ‘Young Men’ now trying to govern the Punjab especially the North Western Frontier. The present day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province {KPK} thus takes its roots in the post Anglo-Sikh Wars, when on 29th March 1849, Frontier Territories were annexed by the proclamation. Districts of Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat were established and placed under the direct control of Administrative Board at Lahore. In 1850 , Peshawar Division was raised, Punjab was divided into ten administrative divisions, each headed by a commissioner having two or three districts under him with a deputy commissioner in charge. Peshawar Division was one such division with Peshawar District and Kohat District and so was the Dera Jat which comprised of Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan. Bannu was part of DI Khan and only in 1861 it was given the status of a district.

A treaty was signed between the John Lawrence chief commissioner of Punjab and Dost Muhammad the Walee of Kabul at Peshawar on **30th March 1855**, it had three articles and it was a treaty in which both parties expressed perpetual peace and friendship, not to intervene in each other's territories and also acknowledging the sovereignty of each other over their respective areas, Dost Muhammad agreed to be an ‘enemy of enemies of honourable East India Company’.³⁰ Another treaty was signed in Peshawar on 26th January 1857, in which British agreed to pay the Dost Muhammad one lakh rupees per month for his assistance against the Persian (which had captured Herat) along with 4000 muskets³¹. British had adopted a wise policy of masterly inactivity in which they remain aloof from the internal politics of Afghanistan but when Sher Ali was back in Kabul and had quelled all the mutinies then viceroy presented him with a subsidy of 60,000 pounds and same amount next year. In modern times it can be termed as grant which in those days and even now is an accepted mode of acknowledging one's sovereignty. In 1869 Sher Ali came down via Peshawar to meet Lord Mayo at Umbella in Punjab; he was given a grand reception and farewell.

30 Ibid, p 246.

31 Ibid 248.





Khyber Agency

The Khyber Pass itself was affected on the east , now the British were willing to pay and act as a replacement of Sikh rule, thus Afridi tribe's clans namely Malik Din Khel of Chora forced their way between Zakkha Khel and Kuki Khel, to set up a small village at Katta Kushta near Ali Masjid, similarly Sipah Kambar Khel and Kamar Khel also took advantage and took share in the Khyber Allowance which the British agreed to pay, to keep their end of Pass safe. British for all practical purpose had cut themselves off from the affairs of the Khyber Pass even after the annexation of Punjab. The Khyber Pass and Afridis were subsidised by the Kabul, and in return the Afghans were allowed to keep soldiers at Ali Masjid Fort, the eastern mouth of the Pass. Afridis after the end of Sikh rule, joined British, in army service; The Punjab Irregular Frontier Force . In **April 1878**, the control of Khyber Pass was transferred by the Central Government at Calcutta to Punjab Government at Lahore. On 22nd April 1878, The very first political agency on North Western Frontier was established as Khyber Agency. Major Hastings was the first political officer³² stationed at Landi Kotal with Mr Merck as his assistant at Ali Masjid, Major Hastings was performing the duty of deputy commissioner of Peshawar. As a political officer, he was authorised to send mail direct to Calcutta {Central Government}.



“SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS!”

Russian Bear and the British Lion with Afghan as the Prey

Second Afghan War started because in London the policy makers now adopted the Forward Policy. ‘coming of the Conservatives in power in 1874. Lord Lytton became the new Governor General in India. The Forward Policy was pursued {by new Governor General Lytton} and the tension grew... a mission under Neville Chamberlain left for Afghanistan, but on 25th August 1878 it was stopped at Ali Masjid by the Faiz Muhammad Khan Ghilzai, he was the governor of Ali Masjid appointed by Amir Sher Ali.³³

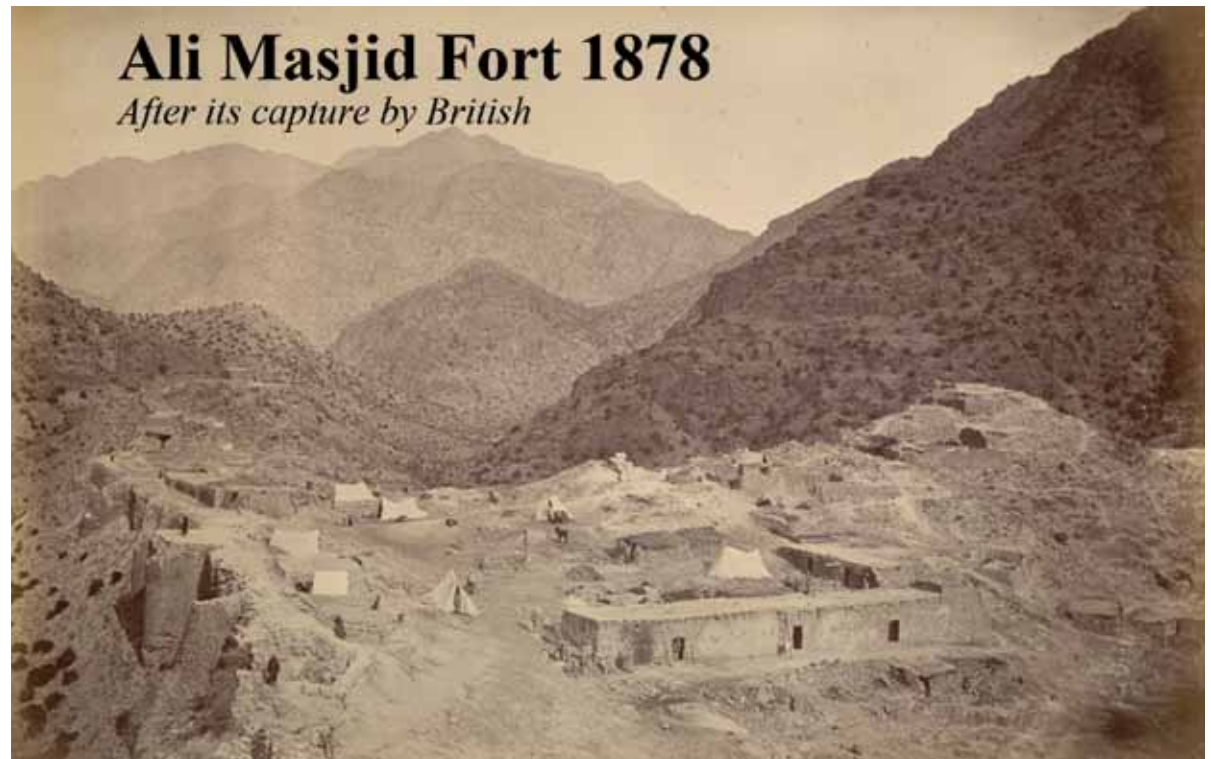
32 Captain Warburton became the political officer of Khyber on 31st July 1879, Till 1902, the political agent of Khyber was designated as political officer, the only political officer among the agencies authorised to communicate directly with central government. See Dr Javed Iqbal 'Overview of British Administration setup and strategy in the Khyber 1840-1947', *IPRI Journal XI, No1, Winter 2011*, pp. 77-95

33 Dr Sultan-I-Rome *The Durand Line Agreement (1893): Its Pros and Cons*, WWW.VALLEYSWAT.NET, accessed on 26th January, 2011.



Jacta est Alea³⁴

Thus a military expedition was carried out 'to remove all anxiety about India's north western frontier... decision for war has been taken'.³⁵ The war itself was a replica of First Anglo Afghan War , Military operation were modified from the first war, now three expeditionary force were formed, one move on the traditional route of Quetta - Kandahar led by Sir Donald Stewart occupied Kandahar without much resistance, the central force moving through Kurram –Peiwar- Kabul under Major General Sir Fredrick Roberts, it was successful in crossing the Peiwar Kotal. In North a march towards Kabul from Peshawar through the Khyber Pass, under General Sam Browne³⁶. Jamrud Fort had cavalry and infantry of Guides, 1st Sikhs Punjab Field Force and a mountain artillery battery, under Cavagnari; which overran Ali Masjid, on 21st November 1878. The Pass's romance was kept in mind and thus a two pronged British advance was carried out, one direct towards Ali Masjid and second towards. Katta Kushtia, which is three miles west of Ali Masjid, thereby cutting off the retreat of the Afghans, who were really taken by surprise. It was Malik Wali Muhammad Zaka Khel Afridi, who was present with few of his clansmen at **Ali Masjid**'. It was Wali, who took the whole garrison of Afghan at Ali Masjid into safety by taking them due south into Bazaar Valley and by Sassobai Pass into Jalalabad; Wali in the bargain deprived Afghans of 800 rifles.



British were soon in Kabul, Sher Ali fled and in his place his son Yakub Ali was made Amir and the ultimate victory was achieved at the treaty of **Gandamak**, a British military camp approximately 79 miles south west of Kabul on 30th May 1879. He agreed to assign the districts of Pishin & Sibi in south and Kurram in the centre along with accepting British control over Khyber Pass. He also surrendered his rights as an independent nation

34 Jacta est alea , was the message cabled by Viceroy to London, it means 'die is cast'

35 Durand line ,pp 110-112 also see Aslam Khattak, *A Pathan Odyssey*, {Oxford,Karachi,2000} pp,70-71. Also see,Muhammad Qaiser Janjua. "[In the Shadow of the Durand Line; Security, Stability, and the Future of Pakistan and Afghanistan](#)". Naval Postgraduate School, Monterrey, California,pp 66-67.

36 Stewart Jules *The Khyber Rifles From the British Raj to Al Qaeda*, {Phoenix, Gloucestershire, 2005},p-17



to undertake foreign policy with other powers, in short he became a vassal of Calcutta. Yakub Khan also agreed to have the British mission at Kabul.

His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan and its dependencies agrees to conduct his relations with Foreign States in accordance with the advice and wishes of the British Government. His Highness the Amir will enter into no engagements with Foreign States, and will not take up arms against any Foreign State, except with the concurrence of the British Government. On these conditions the British Government will support the Amir against any foreign aggression with money, arms, or troops, to be employed in whatsoever manner the British Government may judge best for this purpose. Should British troops at any time enter Afghanistan for the purpose of repelling foreign aggression, they will return to their stations in British territory as soon as the object for which they entered has been accomplished.

With a view to facilitate communications between the allied Governments and to aid and develop intercourse and commercial relations between the two countries, it is hereby agreed that a line of telegraph from Kurram to Kabul shall be constructed by and at the cost of the British Government, and the Amir of Afghanistan hereby undertakes to provide for the protection of this telegraph line.

In consideration of the renewal of a friendly alliance between the two States which has been attested and secured by the foregoing Articles, the British Government restores to his Highness the Amir of Afghanistan and its dependencies the towns of Kandahar and Jalalabad with all the territory now in possession of the British armies, excepting the districts of Kurram, Pishin and Sibi. The revenues of these districts, after deducting the charges of civil administration, shall be paid to His Highness the Amir.

The British Government will retain in its own hands the control of the Khyber and Michni Passes, which lie between the Peshawar and Jalalabad districts, and of all relations with the independent tribes of the territory directly connected with these passes. The British Government agrees to pay to His Highness the Amir and to his successors an annual subsidy of six lakhs of Rupees.

The point to note is that Khyber Pass has been treated as two entities namely, Michni and Khyber.

The Khyber Rifles is one of the oldest units of Frontier Corps, KP. Khyber Rifles, originally known as Khyber Jezailchis, was raised in November 1878 by Captain Gais Ford. It was a sort of semi Khassadar Force carrying their own rifle (Jezail). This force was to prevent the tribes molesting the line of control during the Second Afghan War. Captain Gais Ford, commanded Khyber Rifles upto 1881 then he handed over the command to Sardar Mohammad Aslam Khan who was the first Muslim Commandant. Who later became Lieutenant Colonel Nawab Sir Mohammad Aslam Khan. He commanded the corps from 1881 to 1897. He has seen the longest period of command i.e. 16 years. Uptill 1887 the Khyber Jezailchis served only in Khyber Agency.

orkham, former stock post

Khyber Pass Aerial View 2015



Buddhist ruins on Khyber Pass

Khyber Pass 1878

Indi Koral overhead, Khyber Pass now descends down towards Tonkham



ALI MASJID

YOU ARE PRESENTLY PASSING THROUGH THE NARROWEST PORTION OF THE HISTORIC KHYBER PASS KNOWN AS ALI MASJID. IT WAS HERE THAT THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF ALI MASJID WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE AFGHANS IN THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR 1878. THE PASS ITSELF IS 42 KM LONG STARTING FROM SHAL KHYBER GATE AT JAMRUD AND GOING RIGHT UP TO TORUKHAM ON THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER. THE FAMOUS KHYBER PASS IS KNOWN AS THE WESTERN GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT. SOME OF THE RENOWNED RACES AND DYNASTIES THAT PASSED THROUGH THESE MOUNTAINS ARE:

• ARYANS	1570 B.C.
• GREK RULERS	327 B.C. 305 B.C.
• MAURITIYAN DYNASTY	323 B.C. 180 B.C.
• CHANDEZ KHAN'S SUCCESSORS	1220 A.D. 1269 A.D.
• TAMILUANE	1300 A.D. 1501 A.D.
• MOGHAL DYNASTY	1526 A.D. 1729 A.D.
• (BASAR) CROSSED THE PASS IN 1507	
• DURRANI DYNASTY	1747 A.D. 1818 A.D.
• SIKH RULE	1825 A.D. 1840 A.D.
• BRITISH RULE	1826 A.D. 1947 A.D.
• ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN	1947 A.D. ONWARDS



Balahisar Fort Peshawar

Ali Masjid Fort-1878, western end and most dangerous part of Khyber Pass

Jamrud Fort



Khyber Jezailchi





Chapter Two

Khyber Jezailchi

In summer of 1879, Landi Kotal, had two British regiments, three native infantry regiments, two companies of sapper and miners and troop of Bengal Lancers stationed along with *two companies of Khyber Jezailchis*. The scarcity of water resulted in poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, soon cholera spread out at Landi Kotal, there were dead corpses of animals everywhere with over 1000 carcass lying. Every morning like a ritual, in the morning and in the evening, funeral procession marched towards the cemetery. Major cause of the epidemic was the improper disposal of camel dead bodies, which were just left on ground with little mud mound and stone. It is worth interest, some of the extra ordinary graves seen in Khyber and in other parts of frontier, taken as the graves of old era, highlighting the extraordinary size of people then are nothing more in reality than the graves of camels.

Despite the treaty the Afghans again revolted and scenes similar to First War were re-enacted, 'A rebellion took place and the Mission's members were killed on 3rd September 1879'.³⁷ British resident Major General Sir Pierre Louis Cavagnari along with eighty of his guards were killed, residency burnt down. General Roberts saved the day and he later carried out punitive action against the Kabul city.

On 6th September 1879, the leading maliks of the pass including Ahmad Khan Sipah, Sarfraz Khan Malik Din Khel, Abdullah Nur Kuki Khel {he was the oldest age 84 years}, Wali Muhammad Khan Zakkha Khel agreed to be friend of the British and were taken to Peshawar, it was outstanding feat of diplomacy on part of Captain Warburton because only three days earlier the residency at Kabul had been burnt by the natives. Wali Muhammad was the same man who had led the Afghan attack on Ali Masjid - 22 November 1878}, 'he had gone back to Kabul, met the Amir and Yakub Khan, and asked for any further command, but Amir replied 'you have acted as like a true man, but must now go and make friends with English, as he could do no more for him...Wali Muhammad thus later met Major Sir L. Cavagnari at Gandamak, who directed him to stay at Landi Kotal and wait for further instructions'. Pass now became strategically important. Going back in the history, it is with conduct of this Anglo-Afghan wars that one realises the true importance of Khyber as compared to other passes leading into Afghanistan, none offers such rapid movement and reinforcement as in Khyber Pass, and it is this aspect of Pass which makes it truly a pivot of geography and history. These negotiations resulted in having a formal treaty with the Afridi tribe on the Khyber Pass administration. The leading maliks were getting the allowances from Kabul, now the British offered them the same, it should not be taken as an act of mercenary rather the leading maliks had earlier thrown the lot with the Kabul but now sensing that British had taken over Kabul, they were keen to have friendly relationship with British, 'every malik or chief and every tribal Jirga, fully represented, marched down to Peshawar and by September 6, 187 the work of arrangement commenced'. The Zakkha Khel tribe was divided into two, one following Malik Wali Muhammad {5000 in numbers} and other group was led by Malik Khawas Khan; on 11th July 1897, Wali was actually killed by Khawas.

British thus concluded that without having a King in Afghanistan who is reliable to their cause and also accepted to the population of Afghanistan will remain agitated, Yakub Khan was put into exile in India. The British Viceroy in India, Edward Robert Lytton Bulwer had three choices: to annex

³⁷ Sultan Rome, *Durand Line* 1893, p 36.



Mounted infantry 'Sowar' of Khyber Rifles

Afghanistan and declare it a part of the British Empire, to make Afghanistan a strong British ally, or disintegrate Afghanistan into small independent states. All these options were rejected by London,³⁸ and instead Abdur Rehman nephew of Sher Ali who had been in exile in Russia was put on throne, on 22 July 1880. Between 1849-1879 the pass remained under the control of Central Government at Calcutta, however it remained closed for all practical purpose even the mail for Kabul used to go via the Kabul River track known as Tartara route. It was opened only once when Amir Sher Ali Khan visited Amballa Durbar in 1869.

Khyber Jezailchi

Khyber Jezailchi's initially had a strength of 400 footmen and 48 mounted on horse, later it increased to 550 in 1881, with Sardar Aslam Khan Saddozai as commandant, he in turn was under command of the political officer of Khyber Rifles which for almost eighteen years was Colonel Warburton. Thus the first twenty years of Khyber Rifles history is a history of these two men who led, reorganize and expanded the Khyber Jezailchis. Malik Afridi Khan was the second in command. The natives used to call it **Sur Lakkai** {red tail}³⁹ for the reason that the Jezailchis wore the native dress but as a mark of distinction they would put on a red cloth on their turban thus the nick name⁴⁰. In other words it was a levies because they were not issued with any government rifles and only free ration was admissible the pay being paid directly to the clans under silladari system.

Life at frontier was interesting and dangerous '*inspite of the large garrison at Landi Kotal, and the abundance of picquets and sentries thrown out every night nothing was safe from the depredations of Shinwari, Shilmani and Zakkha Khel thieves*'⁴¹

Zakkha Khel described by Warburton, the political officer of Khyber as the most important tribe in the Khyber Range, were the main trump card in the British hand on the Afghan issue thus one of the early task of **Khyber Jezailchis** was to protect the cattle

38 Abdur Rehman Khan, http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Abdur_Rahman_Khan.

39 Colonel Sir George Warburton, *Eighteen Years in the Khyber 1879-1898*, first published 1900, { Lahore,; Sang e Meel, 2007}

40 Ibid, p-94.

41 Ibid, p-77.



grazing of Zakkha Khel. One company was permanently deployed at Besai Ridge, it was rotated every month, food was supplied to it from Jamrud. Between 1878 – 1881, the troops at Jamrud utilised the water approximately 12 hours daily, the water belong to Kuki Khel and after four years of negotiations the agreement was reached under which the compensation was paid {rupees 5000} and it was further agreed that troops can use water for one day in a week by paying rupees 150 per month to the tribe. This is probably one of the very rare case in which the British had to pay for the water during their rule in India. The water issue is still very delicate in nature in the Pass and tribes are very possessive about it, for them it is, what oil is to an Arab tribe. This also highlight the Afridi or for that matter all tribes astride Durand Line, where contrary to the perception of uniformity among the tribe, it is the economics which shifts the balance of loyalty; in any case, Zakkha Khel were also charging the money for water at the western end of Khyber Pass. Major Warburton describes one incident *‘one of those cases which one seldom comes across in the career of British soldiers serving in India’*. *An old man, a Zakkha Khel had sold his wood in the market and was returning home with a young relative of ten years of age. A British soldier meeting them in a secluded part, started kicking and knocked old man down, he then kicked the young lad violently, after which the soldier retreated to his regimental bivoucs. The old victim died and later the soldier was arrested, having a history of violent temper, addicted of kicking the natives. Soldier was court-martialled and for identification parade, the young boy was called, he came with two of his elder relatives, ‘all our endeavours to induce them to give evidence failed, nothing would persuade the uncles to permit the lad to look at the British soldiers, paraded for his inspection’*.⁴² The reason of elders reluctance was in the fact that they believed that the British soldier was so intoxicated with liquor when he committed the act, and as such drunkard was not answerable for his actions.

Within the Afridi tribe, the two clans, Kuki Khel and Zakkha Khel had interesting incidents, which shed life on tribal life. Malik Nur Kuki Khel in 1861 had paid rupees a thousand to get the Malik Ghulam Kadir killed and thus not only secured chieftainship but also married the mother and widow of the murdered. he had children from both the mother and widower of slain.



Sepoys of Khyber Rifles

42 Ibid, p-80.



Major Warburton, on his joining back after a year of leave in England, had the first impression in 1882, about Jezailchis as an untidy, unkempt band of excellent men without any discipline, but excellent material for warfare. They had no uniform, no official issued weapon, they were under no command except their tribal malik, yet it was on his very instructions that they had come here, majority were Zakkha Khel. Officials were not concerned with the idea of providing these men with any kind of uniform 'contrary to the advice of certain people who objected to seeing the Khyber Levies either properly dressed or fairly drilled, we preserved in the course we had adopted', wrote Colonel Warburton, who grasped the very soul of the Khyber and the frontier, by comparing the Afridi with Gurkha and Sikh, he had the conviction that as long as there is no interference in recruit's tribal custom, *he will be just as proud of a good well-disciplined corps as either Gurkha, Pathan or Sikh*.⁴³

It was in early 1881, that a full Jirga of Afridi clan was held at Peshawar in which the independence of the tribe was recognized and allowances agreed {rupees 85,860 for the Khyber Afridi}, government to take the toll and clan to provide the force for maintaining order and peace on the pass⁴⁴. This force was Khyber Jezailchi which comprised of native Khyber Afridi and paid by the British. In 1881, the troops were withdrawn from Landi Kotal and no European was allowed to go beyond Jamrud ; resultantly by 1882, Landi Kotal was in ruins.



Caravan travelling in 1882 on the pass was interesting, the caravans would leave simultaneously from Peshawar and Jalalabad. On Monday and Thursday, the caravan would enter the pass from Kabul direction and on same days from Peshawar towards the Kabul, settling at Jamrud at sunset, paying the toll and rest. On every Tuesday and Friday, the caravans halting at Landi Kotal would commence their journey eastward with Khyber Rifles escort. Ali Masjid was the meeting point of these caravans. The caravans would change the guards, now the Khyber Rifles would escort the Kabul bound caravans in similar fashion, escorting them till Landi Khanna, on every Wednesday and Saturday, where the Afghan khassadar would take over. There was no water at Torkham, which was the last limit of Amir of Kabul, about 2000 yards short of Landi Khanna, however 200,000 gallons of water was always available, every day at Landi Khanna. Caravans would spend two nights each way at Landi Kotal. Khyber Rifles was kept busy most of the time by Kamal Khan Malik Din Khel, a freebooter, he carried out a night attack on 19th Lancers lines killing half a dozen soldiers, another attack on a piquet at Kohat . Kamal belongs to Tirah, tribes later burnt down his home as per the agreement under which they were held collectively for any

⁴³ Ibid, p-94.

⁴⁴ Colonel H.C.Wyllie *From the Black Mountain to Waziristan, first edition, 1912*, {Lahore; Sang e Meel , 2003}, pp-184-185.



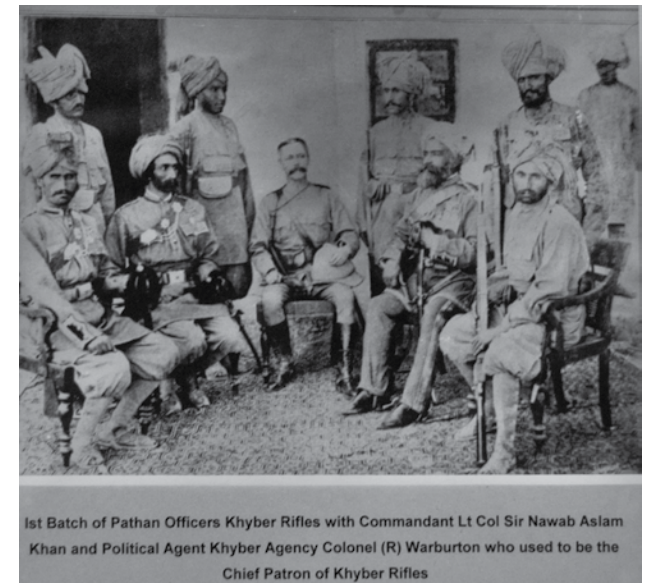
crime of an individual. He was later killed by his own cousin for reward money and in return, a cousin of Kamal murdered the killer of Kamal and this is how the saga of Kamal came to an end.

Tartarra Route was expanded in 1881-82, with a sum of Rupees 6000, this is an alternate route to cross the Hindukush. Starting from Peshawar Valley {Mathra police station}, Mullagori territory a rather peaceful and numerical inferior tribe, Dabrai hills ascends and descends, Loe Shilman {greater Shilman} crossing the Shilman Ghaka {Shilman Pass} Kam Dakka {lesser Dakka}, Loe Dakka and finally hit the Dakka town in Afghanistan. Shinwaris were under the control of Khan of Lalpura; a Mohmand, they numbered 700. Mullagori a small tribe had a 600 strength, whereas Afridis numbered over 25000 men. Khyber Jezailchi's second in command Malik Afridi Khan accompanied Major Warburton on the reconnaissance trip of Tartarra route. It is worth noting that nothing was spent on the maintenance and repair of barracks and road leading to Landi Kotal since 1879.



In 1881 the nomenclature of Khyber Jezailchi was changed into Khyber Rifles

Khyber Rifles was employed for the protection of Peshawar villagers on the outskirts from the marauding sections of Zakkha Khel, a company was deployed at Besai ridge mainly for keeping an eye on the Khajuri Plains. It had a big drum and flares to warn off about any raid, twice a week they also patrolled the Khajuri plain. In 1882, a minor issue arose in Ali Masjid, Malik Din and Kambar Khel Afridis are descendent from one stock, and they had a manpower of around ten thousand, Malik Din's chief resides in Chora Valley, ten miles south of Ali Masjid. Abdullah Noor Kuki Khel was the instigator, the Shadil land {uncultivated land} measuring one tenth of an acre was the property of Kambar Khel Afridis, close to Ali Masjid. Nur Khan knowing fully well, yet he instigated Kuki Khels to plough and cultivate the land, when Kambar Khels heard about it, they formed a Lashkar to attack the Kuki Khel, alongwith Malik Dins, they marched from Chora Valley towards the Ali Masjid. There was one company of Khyber Rifles stationed at Ali Masjid, it was being commanded by two native officers, both were relative of the approaching invaders, as such, they urged their under command to disobey the orders from Landi Kotal, in the end, two havildars brought out the company to Jamrud as per the orders of the commandant. By mid-1880, road to Landi Kotal was repaired, a conservancy was constructed in Landi Kotal, area was also



1st Batch of Pathan Officers Khyber Rifles with Commandant Lt Col Sir Nawab Aslam Khan and Political Agent Khyber Agency Colonel (R) Warburton who used to be the Chief Patron of Khyber Rifles



cleaned. Khawas Kahn Zakkha Khel was a staunch opponent of road, being improved or any other work undertaken. It was again the economics which solved the dispute, Road from Jamrud to Ali Masjid was given to Kuki Khel for construction, Ali Masjid to near Gurgurra was the property of Malik Din thus they were given the contract, whereas from Gurgurra to Malik Khawas Khan house was given to his faction of Zakkha Khel and from his fort to the Landi Khanna {Shinwari limit} was given as contract to Malik Wali Muhammad Khan faction. Shinwaris got the contract to construct the road from Landi Khanna to Torkham. Wage was four annas daily, the men were called to work through one of them who could manage the working. Thus now tribesmen were getting the pay directly into their hand 'they were willing to set aside the wishes of their chiefs where their private interests were concerned'. Same tactics were employed for the construction, repair and maintenance of Fort Jamrud and Landi Khanna.

Summer of 1884 - Landi Kotal

Life at Landi Kotal was full of fraught, it was only during the visit of commandant Khyber Rifles that peace would prevail upon the area. In the summer of 1884, both political agent Khyber Agency and Commandant Khyber Rifles undertook a two weeks tour of Landi Kotal, they stayed in large tents. They would both take an early morning walk accompanied by the village headmen and visitors. After breakfast till evening it was work and then again walk. Major Warburton was never armed other than a walking stick, 'I found that the people were better pleased when they felt assured that I trusted them entirely with my safety... It was understood by the tribesmen that wherever my camp was in their hills, the greatest enemies might resort to it with perfect safety... there never was any attempt to steal a farthing worth of property from our tents or our camp'.⁴⁵ Well a theft was committed in the camp in which few trifling's belonging to Khyber Rifle's sowar were taken away; two months later at midnight, someone knocked at the fort door of Malik Wali Muhammad and on opening, the stolen items were found wrapped in a shawl, placed at doorstep.

Duke and Duchess of Connaught were the first British, royal visitors to step into Khyber Pass. They came on an official visit to Peshawar on 30th September 1884 and next day were taken to Jamrud Fort, from there they rode to Ali Masjid. Khyber Rifles secured the adjoining heights, the royal party did not make it to Ali Masjid and had to turn back from Shagai. On their trot back, two Kuki Khel women suddenly appeared on scene, they rushed and grasped the reins of the Duke's horse. They were the sister and mother of a man, charged with burglary and under trial at Peshawar; they wanted mercy from the Duke. This incident highlights the tribal domestic life which is no different from any other society, after all in which

⁴⁵ Warburton, *Eighteen Years*, p-112.



Lt Col Sir Nawab Aslam Khan, The First Muslim Commandant of Khyber Rifles, with first Political Agent, of the First Tribal Agency Khyber, Major (Later) Col Sir Warburton



other society one finds mother and sister sitting idle for their son and brother undergoing trial. At this stage all tribal rules and customs were put aside by these brave women.

In *April 1888*, two new companies of Khyber Rifles were raised there by increasing the total number to eight. The two new companies No.6 a Mullagori Shilman Company and No.7 was known as Bazar Valley Company comprising of Zakkha Khel Afridi. ‘They are not perhaps such fine men as that of other Afridi companies...I could raise Khyber Rifles to a body of 2000 men’⁴⁶. The annual cost of two companies was Rupees 32,000. Each company had 99 all ranks with one subedar, one jemadar, four havildars, one naik and eighty- eight sepoys. Pay of a jemadar was rupees 20-35 per month with variation depending upon the allowances. The sanction was given in May 1888 for the raising of these companies.

In February 1888 the construction of a defensible serai at Landi Kotal was acceded by the government of Punjab and government of India sanctioned it⁴⁷, the estimated cost was rupees 1,90,102.

There were 73 murders and 30 attempted murders in Peshawar District in 1883.

Black Mountain Expedition – 1888

In the year 1888, the telegraph line was extended from Jamrud – Landi Kotal. ‘*I was treated with courtesy by all the influential men...I saw no sign of hostility either to me or to my work...this can only be attributed to the excellent arrangements made under the commissioner and Commandant Khyber Rifles*’⁴⁸. The very first telegraph was regarding the Black Mountain Expedition. Khyber Rifles volunteered and selected 135 men and officers. Khyber Rifles {with 100 mules} were paraded at Landi Kotal and addressed by Colonel Warburton ‘Do nothing that will bring disgrace or discredit on the Khyber Rifles’. Between 1880 -1897 there were no less than 16 Frontier expeditions and leaving apart Chitral expedition {1895} all other were in the vicinity of Peshawar. The very first Afridi uprising had taken place at Dara Adam Khel in 1877 when Jowaki Afridi block the Dara Adam Khel. Most notable was the Shinwari revolt of 1883, against the Amir of Kabul. The Shilman tribe numbered around 700 and Mullagori were 600 men in 1882.



Warburton with Khyber Tribesmen

46 Letter No.6., File No.15, Peshawar Archive. Letter from Colonel Warburton to secretary to Government of Punjab.

47 Letter No.51, Peshawar Archives, File No.17. Box No. 21.

48 Peshawar Archives, Box No.13. A.D.S. Assistant superintendent of Telegraphy, Rawalpindi sub division, dated February 15th 1888.



Subedar Major Mir Akbar Khan Afridi was outstanding for conspicuous gallantry on the many occasions: On 8th October 1888, at the attack on Abu village, Black Mountain, he with **Sepoy Akhtar Shah**, were the first men to reach the village under a heavy fire, Akhtar was wounded and Mir Akbar single handed charged five or six of the enemy and saved the life of Akhtar. **Jamadar Mohammad Challi** was another hero, On 10 October 1888, during the attack on Khund, Black Mountain, Hazara, he led the attack and was the first man to enter the village. On 28 October 1888, in the vicinity of Thakot, he along with Naik Habib dislodged the enemy from a sanger killing several of their number. **Sepoy Mian Baz** and Sepoy Ajar Din on 1st November 1888, during the storming of the Chorapur Pass, were the first two of the Khyber Rifles to reach the crest. Challi, during the withdrawal from Pokal {3rd November} was the last man to leave his position and with great determination he kept the enemy at bay and thus successfully helped his men to retire to safety.

On 31st October 1889, a grand parade was held in the brigade ground at Peshawar, Viceroy distributed the order of merit to the six men of Khyber Rifles for their gallant conduct during the Black Mountain Expedition. It was very impressive parade and the smart turnout was like the Grenadier Guards. However, Just before the presentation of the Indian Order of Merit to Subedar Mursal, It was discovered that no ribbon had been sent with the medal, but the situation was saved by a Sikh orderly officer to the Viceroy who took off his own ribbon for the Afridi.

In 1891, the Khyber Rifles once again were called to take part in the Black Mountain Expedition, some 300 men of the Khyber Rifles under command of Lieutenant Colonel Aslam Khan C.I.E marched from Jamrud to Peshawar and on 25 February, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Khyber Rifles marched out together to take part in the campaign. In January 1891 the Khyber Rifles were issued with Snider rifles, they were issued with 288 such rifles during the Black Mountain expedition. On the death or discharge of any sepoy the rifle was taken back and given to the new entrant. The storage of ammunition for Snider at Jamrud was allowed in 1890 by the commander in chief. It is worth mentioning that first line ammunition was 10 rounds per rifle.⁴⁹

During this operation, Major Aslam Khan had a narrow escape, On a particular hill top there were two large shades (kotes) for the villagers where the men had to spend the night. One of these huge shades was taken up by the Ghurkhas, and the other handed over for the use of the Khyber Rifles. Night was falling and it started snowing. When Major Aslam Khan turned out all his men to collect wood and light fires to warm themselves there remained inside the shade with Aslam Khan, his three orderlies, his horse, a guide of the area, and some dooli bearers, suddenly the shade came down killing the horse, dooli bearers, the guide and wounding two of the orderlies. Aslam Khan happened to be standing at the right corner of the shed beneath beam, which came down slow dragging him to the ground but its end resting on a little two feet mud wall, protected his body from certain death. It was a miraculous escape, and he was dug out with some difficulty. What the weight of the roof was, may be judged from the fact that it took twelve hours, hard work to get dead and wounded out. Aslam Khan was carried in a dooli to Darbend, and taken to Peshawar and the Khyber Rifles were left without an officer to them.

⁴⁹ Letter No.649, 11th December 1890 Foreign Department. Peshawar archives.



Khyber Rifles & Durand Line 1893

Khyber Rifles from its inception till to date is closely interlink with the history and events in Afghanistan and even in Iran and areas astride and beyond River Oxus.

Pakistan and Afghanistan both have historical, cultural, ethnic and religious ties that spread over a thousand years. The very first Muslim empire established at Delhi in the 11th century was created by the Afghans and in different forms they remained in power or as king makers till the creation of Pakistan, the question then arises, why these two countries despite having such a strong bond never had good relations⁵⁰. One major irritant is the Durand Line, the boundary between the two countries that was drawn in 1893, between the British India and the King of Afghanistan and it remained in vogue till to date. Afghanistan raised the issue of Durand Line after the creation of Pakistan in 1947 ‘almost all Afghan governments have denied the legitimacy of the Durand Line, rejecting the idea that it represents the legal international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan’.⁵¹ The Durand Line extends approximately 1200 miles⁵² from the Sarikol range in the north to the Iranian border in



50 Mehrunnisa Ali, Ed, *Readings in Pakistan Foreign Policy 1971-1998* {Oxford, Karachi, 2001} pp, 330-332.

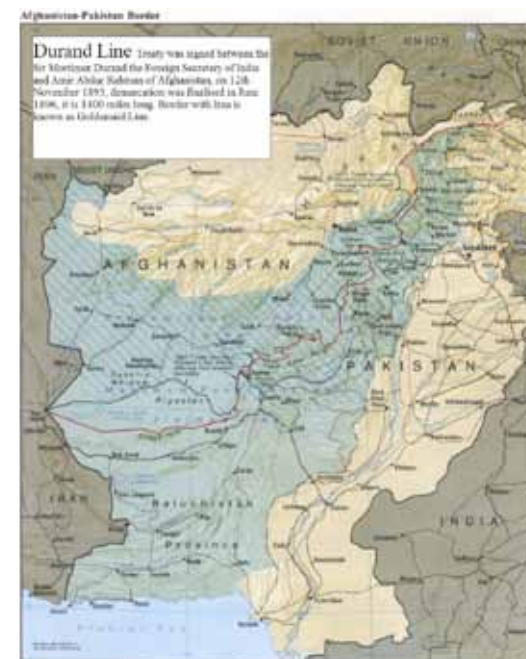
51 The American Institute of Afghan Studies “*The Durand Line: History, Consequences and Future.*” Nov 2007. http://www.hollingscenter.org/Reports/07-2007_Durand_Line.pdf (accessed January 8, 2011).

52 Mujtaba Razvi, *The Frontiers of Pakistan, a Study of frontier Problems in Pakistan's Foreign Policy* {National, Karachi, 1971} p 143.



the southwest. Durand Line has scattered tribes living in the area since long is very scarcely populated yet heavily armed. The provinces of Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) are on the eastern side of the Durand Line and form the western border of Pakistan. On Afghanistan's side of the Durand Line are the provinces of Nimruz, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabol, Paktika, Paktia, Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Badakshan.

Sir Henry Mortimer Durand was born at Sehore in Bhopal state on 14th February 1850, he was the second son of Major General Sir Henry Marion Durand [1812-1871]. Who had taken an active part in the First Afghan War of 1839, later served as political agent at Bhopal. He became the foreign secretary of India in 1864 and finally the Governor of Punjab where he met an accidental death, he was invited by a local Sikh ruler who took him upon an elephant ride and the entrance was bit low and thus ended a brilliant career, he married twice. Durand family thus remained engaged with Afghanistan and its affairs from inception and its final culmination took place in 1893, with the signing of agreement at Kabul between the Amir Abdur Rehman and Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, it was the single most important foreign policy decision of the nineteenth century in India or in Asia. The "Durand Line Agreement" between Abdur Rehman and Sir Mortimer Durand was signed on November 12th, 1893, which formulated the formal borders between British India and Afghanistan and defined the sphere of influence especially in Waziristan.



Text of the Agreement: Whereas certain questions have arisen regarding the frontier of Afghanistan on the side of India, and whereas both His Highness the Amir and the Government of India are desirous of settling these questions by friendly understanding, and of fixing the limit of their respective sphere of influence, so that for the future there may no difference of opinion on the subject between the allied Governments, it is hereby agreed as follow:

1. The Eastern and Southern frontier of His Highness's dominions, from Wakhan to the Persian border, shall follow the line shown in the map attached to this agreement... The Government of India will at no time exercise interference in the territories lying beyond this line on the side of Afghanistan, and His Highness the Amir will at no time exercise interference in the territories lying beyond this line on the side of India....The frontier line will hereafter be laid down in detail and demarcated, wherever this may be practicable and desirable, by joint British and Afghan commissions, whose object will be to arrive by mutual understanding at a boundary which shall adhere with the greatest possible exactness to the line shown in the map attached to this agreement, having due regard to the existing local rights of villages adjoining the frontier... Being fully satisfied of His Highness's good will to the British Government, and wishing to see Afghanistan independent and strong, the Government of India will raise no objection to the purchase and import by His Highness of munitions of war in order to mark their sense of the friendly spirit in which His Highness the Amir has entered into these negotiations, the Government of India undertake to increase by the sum of six lakhs of rupees a year the subsidy of twelve lakhs now granted to His Highness.⁵³

53 Azmat, *Durand Line*, appendix, p 244.



Durand Line also marked the boundary of Afghanistan with China where despite the protest of Amir of Afghanistan Abdur Rehman regarding the inaccessibility and difficulty in maintaining Wakhan, a two hundred long and 60 kilometre wide strip was made part of the Afghanistan, thus a British India did not have any direct borders with Russia and Anglo-Sino frontier thus originates from this point. 'everything that happened in Kashmir between 1846 and 1947 was part in some way a product of this strategic policy'⁵⁴

The Khyber Demarcation Commission

The first commission, known as the Khyber Demarcation Commission, was designated for the demarcation of the border from the Safed Koh to the Kabul River. Both the British and Afghan representatives sanctioned this border in mid-1895.⁹⁷ This included the boundary from Chitral (the southern territory of Chitral) to the Kabul River and between the British Kurram territory and the Amir's area of Khost. The British ended the deadlock after surrendering Asmar and the Bangsal Valley of Kafiristan to the Amir thus finalizing a 130-mile border from the Hindu Kush to the vicinity of Nawa Kotal.

Afridi Uprising - 1897

In 1897, disturbances broke out all along the Frontier. On the request of Colonel Warburton a British second-in-command was appointed in Khyber Rifles. Captain Barton took over just before the Afridi War of 1897. Afridi's remained quite for some time, but in August they attacked all the Khyber Rifles posts by 'Lashker' in great strength (13,500). Most of the Khyber Rifles posts were overrun, burnt, but the garrison of Landi Kotal, held under the wounded much decorated Subedar Mursil who had fought at Ambeyla. He was in command of the fortified serai at Landi Kotal. Mursil had one son with him in the serai and two sons were with the Afridi Lashker when they appeared on the Loargi Plateau on August 25, after having been allowed to burn and sack Shadi Bagair, Fort Maud, Fort Ali Masjid and every post between Jamrud and Landi Kotal. His two sons were sent forward to ask him to surrender, but he refused, and threatened to shoot them down if they did not retire. The Afridi suffered 118 killed and wounded before they were able to secure the serai which was only done when this brave and loyal subedar had been killed by a bullet through his head. The Khyber Pass was augmented to two battalions of six hundred each, 50 percent of the total being mounted and were placed under British officers.

In 1899, after the Afridi uprising, Khyber Rifles was almost disbanded and to some extent it was, the whole Khyber Rifles underwent drastic transition, it was now raised as two battalions of twelve companies, out of which eight companies were from local Afridi tribes and four companies consisted of Adam Khel Afridi, Shinwari and Mullagori with Shilmani tribe. Headquarters was at Jamrud, apart from British Commandant, two second in commands, two adjutants and one quartermaster were posted all British. In October 1898, local Afridi maliks filed a petition in which apart from other grievances they specifically asked for Afridi officer in new raised Khyber Militia.

54 Robert Wirsing, *India Pakistan and the Kashmir Dispute. regional conflict & its resolution*, {MacMillan, London, 1994} p 186.



Colonel Sir Robert Warburton, 1840-1901

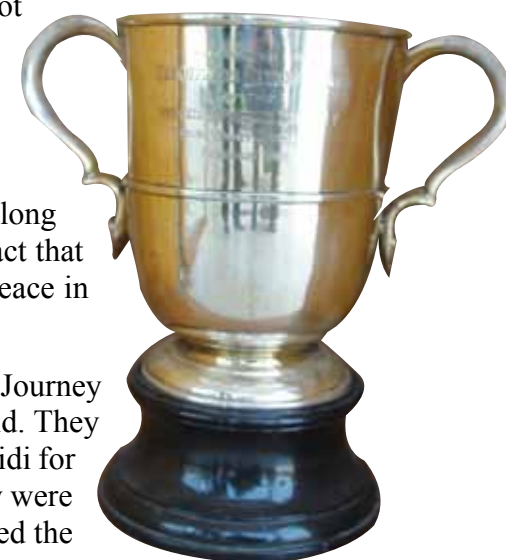
History of Khyber Rifles is incomplete without mentioning the name of Colonel Robert Warburton, he was son of a Colonel Robert Warburton but importantly his mother was an Afghani; the very first instance of such act. *'In November 1840, my father fell in love with and married a noble Afghan lady, a niece of Dost Muhammad, the witnesses to the marriage ceremony being Sir A. Burnes, Colonels Stuart and Jenkins. The marriage certificate containing their signatures and which is in my possession now is a curious document'*.⁵⁵ Robert Warburton was born when the chaos in Kabul was at peak or may be days later. The hard fact is that either the Colonel Warburton converted into Islam or the lady change her faith from Islam into Christianity, which is highly unlikely as the punishment for such act in Islam is death. One cannot rule out the hypothesis that the carnage in Kabul might have been initiated by this marriage, so unusual at that era. Colonel Sir Robert Warburton, was haunted by this stigma in the army, it was only at Khyber that he was accepted whole heartedly, the oral history at Khyber have this cardinal fact that it was Warburton who embraced Islam and not the lady converting into Christianity.

Colonel Warburton senior survived the Kabul massacre because he was held hostage by the Afghans along with few other officers⁵⁶ and both the lovers then reunited in India. Robert Warburton real fame lies in the fact that he remained political officer of Khyber for well over eighteen years and is credited with the harmony and peace in the Pass which exists till today. He was fluent in Pashtu and Persian languages apart from English.

He took Afridi maliks on a tour of India, boarding train from Peshawar and destination was Calcutta. Journey itself took three days. These Afridi had never been outside the pass and were totally ignorant about the world. They had a grand evening tea with viceroy at Calcutta; the Indians also had the very first glance of the ferocious Afridi for the first time. On their return journey they opted for steamer from Bombay to Karachi; all the maliks initially were laughing like school boys but soon all were sea sick. They then travelled to Karachi, Quetta and finally entered the own area from Zhob-Bannu- Peshawar. For years these maliks attained a status of what we have today of 'Space tourist'.

Bazar Valley Expedition (Tirah expedition) 1908

In 1908 the Frontier Corps was engaged against the Zakkha Khel. A detachment of 300 men under Major Roos Keppel along with an equal number of 5th Gurka crossed into Bazar Valley. In this expedition Colonel Warburton was recalled from retirement. Four men of Khyber Rifles all Afridi acted as his scouts and guides, He later died on a sick bed in England. In this operation, the Khyber Rifles earned two mentioned in despatches.



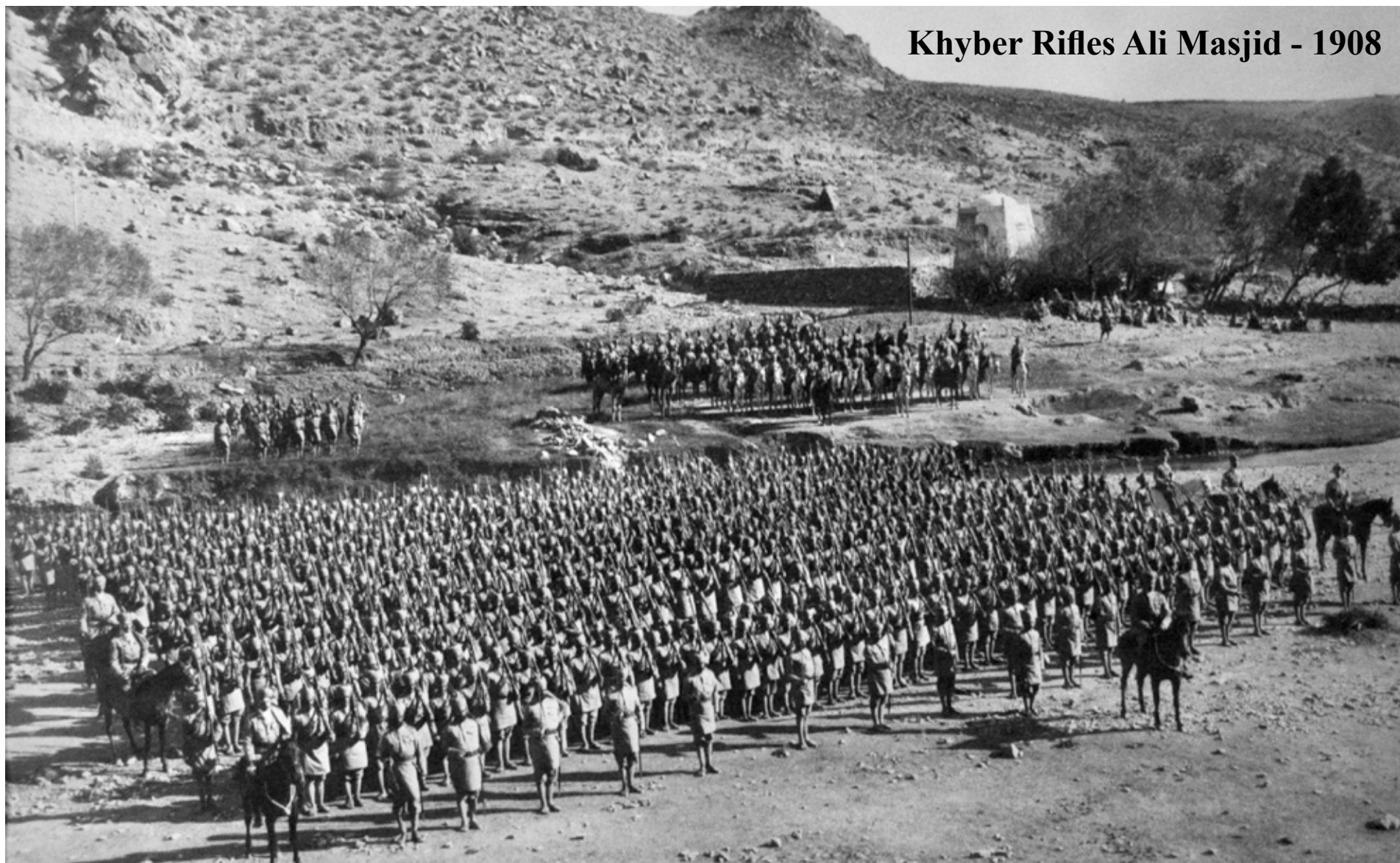
Cup presented by 5 Gurkha Regiment to Khyber Rifles after Bazar Valley Expedition. Khyber Rifles Quarter Guard

⁵⁵ Robert Warburton, *Eighteen Years In Khyber*, p-16.

⁵⁶ Jules Stewart *The Khyber Rifles From British Raj to Al-Qaeda* {Gloucestershire; Sutton, 2005}, p-7, Warburton *Eighteen Years in Khyber*, p-68.



Khyber Rifles Ali Masjid - 1908



Ali Masjid Fort - 1878



To/ The General Officer Commanding,
2nd Division.
No. 20464/10.3.
JAMRUD - 20th October 1919.

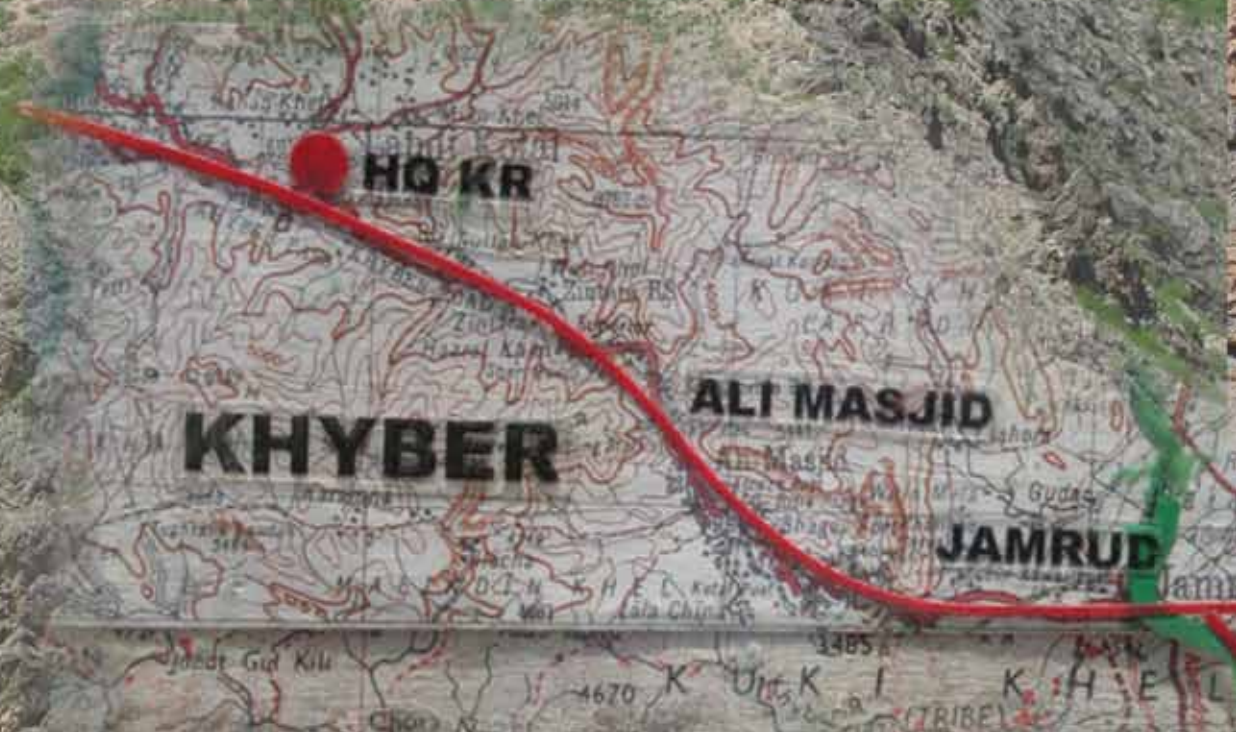
To/ The Political Agent Khaibar,
PESHAWAR.

1168

21.10.19

Sir,
I have the honour to state that a Committee, held at ALI MASJID to consider the site for the permanent garrison at that place, has recommended the acquisition and demolishing of the village of SULTAN TARA which at present adjoins the camp of the 6th Brigade.

The site of this village is tactically important and its possession by local inhabitants would be most undesirable in





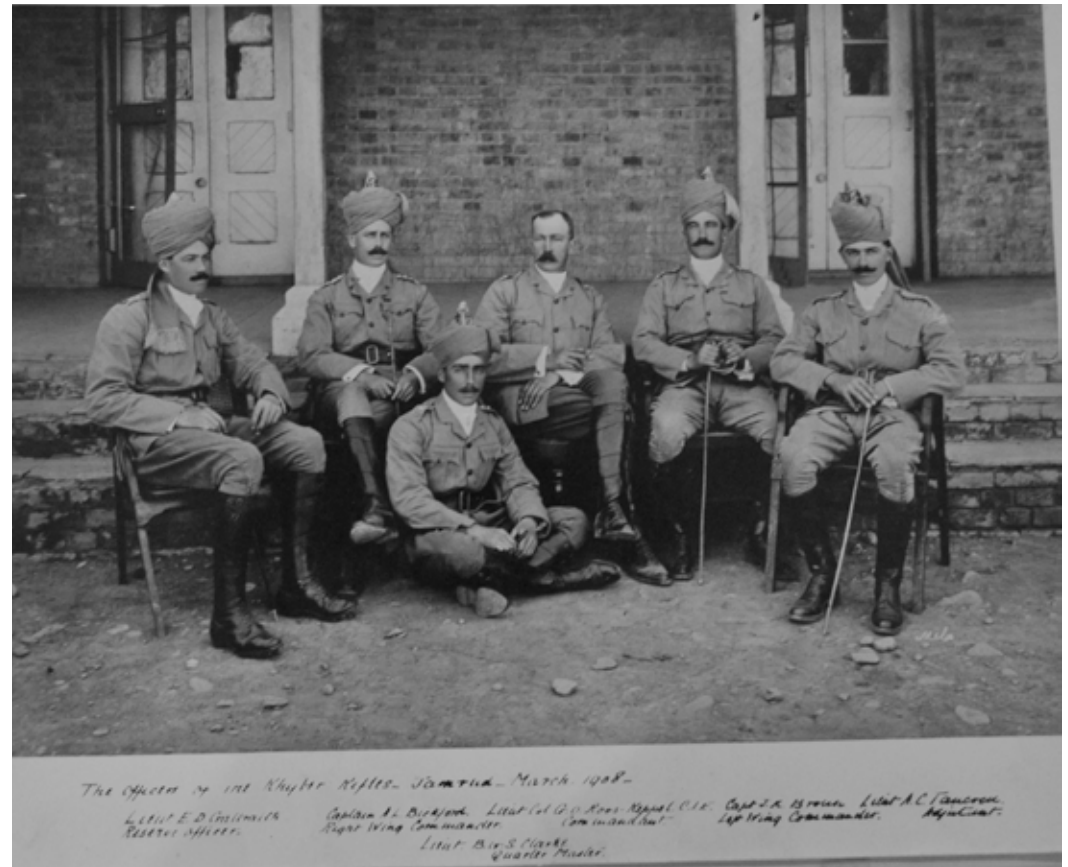


Mohmand Expedition – 1914-17

During First World War, detachments of the Frontier Corps were in continuous action against the Mohmand tribes. It was a task given to Khyber Rifles, which was successfully completed. Khyber Rifles not only put up a good show in the battle field but in 1915 **Sepoy Afzal Khan of Khyber Rifles accompanied Sir Aurel Stein to Central Asia as a surveyor.** The desolate ground of Ion-Lan was meticulously surveyed by this Sepoy. These reconnaissance on ground untouched by human feet for many centuries led to the archaeological remains to the north east which clearly indicated that the ancient trade and military route to Tur-Huang followed that direction, at least in the initial position.

Third Afghan War – 1919

On February 20th, 1919, Amir Habibullah of Afghanistan was slain in his tent near Jalalabad, his third son, Amir Amanullah became the king. On May 3rd, an Afghan army occupied the Khyber Pass. On 6th May 1919, British formally declare war and Third Anglo – Afghan War started. The initial success of the Afghans at Bagh convinced the major Pathan tribes in the Khyber, the Afridis and the Orakzais, that it would be safe to attack the British. In the initial stages of this war Khyber Rifles gave a very good account at Charbagh and Dakka. They successfully held the Afghan advance till the arrival of the regular army. But later on the loyalty of the Khyber Rifles was undermined by propaganda. After a number of desertions the men of the Khyber Rifles were offered the choice of discharge or serving on. The revolt by their kin proved too much for the Khyber Rifles, who deserted or went over to the Afghans and disbanded on 17th May 1919. Those who opted for discharge numbered 1,180 but no Pathan officer volunteered for discharge. Of the loyal, 145 were absorbed in military, police and some 200 were formed into the Khyber Levy Force, the precursor of Khassadars. Thus for a quarter of century the Khyber Rifles remained non-existent.





Khyber Rifles was disbanded after the Afghan War, it became a part of history as far as the nomenclature is concerned, however the realities of Khyber Agency remained as real as they were in past. British Army regiments were stationed at Landi Kotal to counter any major threat to the Khyber Pass from Afghanistan or from locals. The political agent became important and so were the leading maliks of the Khyber Pass. Threat from Afghanistan was almost negligible but the fumes of communism were looming large on horizon after the Bolshevik revolution in 1917. Thus the trouble did not come from the west rather the political agitation in India resulted in the clashes between the Afridi and army.

On 23rd April 1930, the British army opened fire on the Red Shirts in Qisa Khwani Bazar, Peshawar. Somehow, a rumour spread that three Afridis were also killed who had gone to Peshawar for receipt of their allowances. Frontier conflicts in majority of the cases are result of rumours and this was no exception.

A meeting of Afridis took place in Bagh Masjid Tirah, on 2nd May 1930 and it was decided to send a lashkar to attack Peshawar. Two to seven thousand armed Afridis got collected in Khajuri Plain. They collected at Spin Kamar, Malakdin Khel and Kambar Khel were the chief movers. They started moving towards Peshawar by 30th May in small parties along Bara River. On 5th June 1930, they contacted British forces on the western outskirts of Peshawar cantonment, Fighting took place for four days and the lashkar was dispersed. Another lashkar assembled on 5th August and attacked on 13th August 1930 and fighting with British forces continued for about six days resulting in loss of life and property. The British used artillery to disperse the tribesmen. By 20th August about 250 Afridis including two old women even reached Peshawar city. The Supply Depot in cantonment was also attacked. Sir Edwin Pears, chief commissioner of Peshawar, recommended to the Government of the India that Tirah should be occupied.⁵⁷

The Government of India formed a committee on 20th September 1930. In January 1931, the committee decided that occupation of Tirah would be unsound politically. As such, occupation of the Khajuri Plain only, was recommended, On 9th December 1931, final sanction was given. General



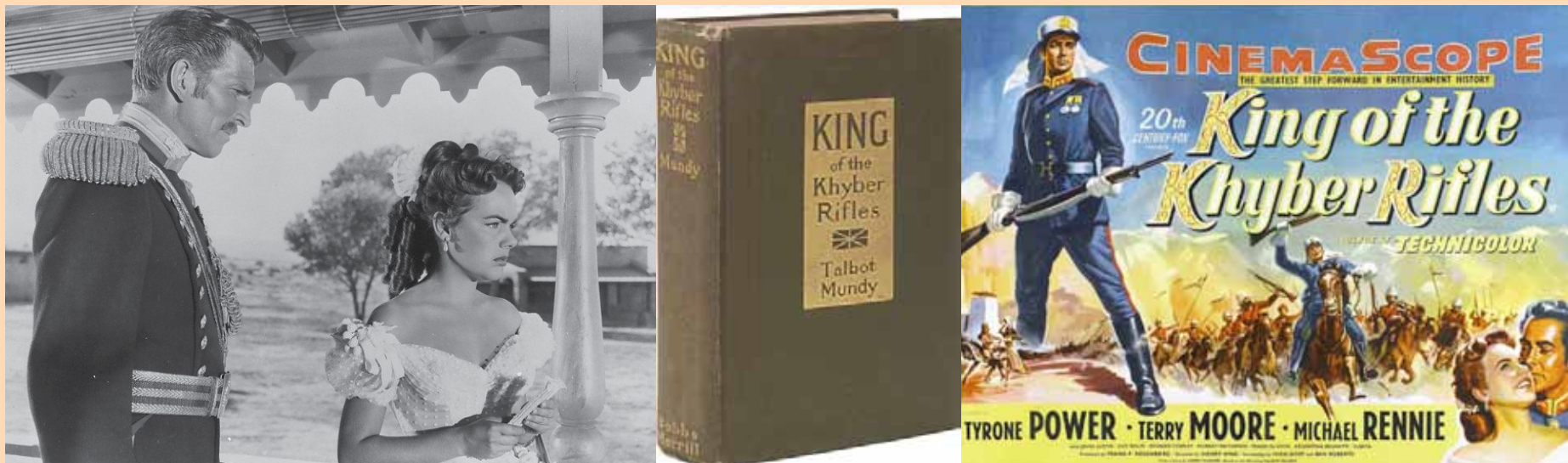
⁵⁷ Official records of Khyber Agency, Landi Kotal.



Coleridge started the occupation operation immediately which lasted till 31st March 1931. Consequently roads were constructed on the Khajuri Plain. Some permanent military posts were also established at Fort Salop and other places. On 3rd October 1931, an agreement between the British and Afridis was signed at Jamrud and the British army action came to an end. Fort Salop was named after the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, the British unit which consolidated the area of Karawal etc. During the operation three brigade size camps were established at Bara Fort, Karawal and Miri Khel. Commander-in-Chief India, Field Marshal Lord Birdwood, also visited troops at Bara Fort, A medal of North West Frontier Campaign 1930-31 was issued after the occupation of Khajuri plain. The occupation of Khajuri initiated by British took a permanent shape and continued till to date

Khyber Caravan-1935

Gordon Sinclair's Khyber Caravan, {1935} provides a rare glimpse of the Khyber Pass and its culture as seen by an American, who was just there on a road travelling 'to see how these mid Asians looked alike'. Sinclair travelled by road from Bannihal Pass through Kashmir, in his Chevrolet along with his bearer and driver till Murree, car broke down here. Thus Sinclair travelled to Rawalpindi and arrived at Peshawar in first week of May 1935, in public transport and decided to venture to Khyber Pass' grim gash of sudden death'. *'At Jamrud the mud fort where you register for admission*



The book was published in 1916 by Talbot Mundy, the film based on the noval was first released in 1929 and a second version came out in 1953. Film can be downloaded on Pirate Bay



to the pass, a bony tribesman with a circle of mascara around his dark eyes and his hair bobbed like a girl's stepped up and sallamed with a grin, "You want a guard", he asked in English "me guard, good shot", he patted his rifle which was laced in a leather case.

The Khyber was peaceful as pasture in that particular time, however, Sinclair took the guard for a fee of half a dollar and this in result led him into the house of the guide. Ahead of Shagai Fort, we entered a wide space studded with lookout towers architecturally different but defensively the as those in Waziristan, *'My home' the painted guardian exclaimed pointing towards a larger one. 'you would come in for tea' ? He asked a bit shyly, We stopped just off the road, he farmed his hands megaphone-shape and shouted command in Pashtu;* then, beckoning me to follow, dropped into a shallow trench and started crawling on hands and knees towards his walled tower. Can't we just walk' I asked, not liking the feel of hard, bumpy mud on bare knees. No, he said "might get shot". "shot?", "yes", sahib, from yonder tower" he pointed vaguely off towards Afghanistan where I could see no tower and went off puffing onward. But if the man up there is going to shoot he had plenty of chance out there on the road, "I offered by way of an argument".

No sahib, no man is ever shot on the road here, It is free ground. We give our word of honour. If Pathan shoots Pathan here in his own land, that is our business, and we do what we will about it. But if a man is shot on the road that brings in the army. The road is a British road, sahib, and if a man is killed on the road then all the family of the man who killed are fined and there is much trouble⁵⁸.

'X' Afridi Battalion

On 1st January 1942, a new unit was born in the Indian Army under the mysterious title of "X" Garrison Battalion. This battalion which was the inspiration of H.E Sir George Cuninghame, Governor of the North West Frontier Province, and General Sir Claude Auchinleck, the Commander in Chief and was originally intended for service in Eritrea. **The Afridi Battalion** was raised as an experiment but there can be no doubt that it quickly outgrew the experimental stage and became outstanding success and though, no fault of its own, it never accomplished anything spectacular and never achieved publicity.

The battalion was raised in Sialkot where it was affiliated to the Frontier Force Regiment and a nucleus of junior and non commissioned officers all natives {VCOs and NCOs} was collected mainly from the Frontier Force. The initial establishment was a headquarters and three companies but this was later expanded to four companies. Lieutenant Colonel G. Bacon (14 Punjab) was appointed commandant with Major R.N. Bacon (P.A. Khyber) As second-in-command. On these officers fell the entire burden of raising the battalion. In June 1942, the battalion, having received two more officers Captain H.W Watson (9 Jat Regiment) and 2/Lieutenant G. Wantnor Smith (6 Rajputana Rifles) to complete its establishment was ordered to proceed overseas not to Eritrea as originally intended, but for incorporation in a commando corps. During March 1942, spirits soared as suggestions came in of an active role of highly mobile and lightly equipped infantry, trained in the best traditions of the Frontier Corps, but prepared to meet a first class enemy.

58 Gordon Sinclair *Khyber Caravan* {1978} [1935]. P-75.



Excitement was short lived however, as the battalion embarked at Bombay the general situation in the Middle East gave no cause for concern, but throughout the voyage, on which almost everyone was horribly sick disturbing reports were coming in over the wireless from Cairo and when the battalion arrived in Suez, Rommel was drawing hourly nearer to Alexandria.

The battalion stayed five weeks in Syria. It had been organised prior to proceeding overseas into two wings of two company each with Captain Letts and Captain Watson as Wing Commanders. Training went on but as no one knew how to employ such a unit no directive could be issued and the deplorable lack of equipment was a difficulty not easily overcome. In August 1943, it was transferred to Paiforce and placed under command of Tenth Army. Again hopes rose for with the Germans pushing towards Stalingrad and the Caucasus, North Persia seemed likely to become a battle field and Tenth Army had ideas on how Afridi battalion could be used. Directives were received for training battalion on guerrilla lines, special equipment was suggested including Persian Rifles because of the Ammunition used for them resembled German Type, a signal and a destruction platoon were envisaged. Training was intensified and long gashts in the hills around the Baittak Pass were carried out on which a heavy toll of Ibex was taken and one Wing Commander had a brush with a bear.

It was here too in Baittak that the Afridi met for the first time that highly proficient artist, the Kurdish thief. The camp was raided three times very cleverly and despite a certain expenditure of government ammunition it must in fairness be admitted that the Kurds came off best materially as the quartermaster, brooding over the loss of much of his personal kit, could vehemently testify. However great amusement was caused by the arrival in camp one morning of a British Officer driving a 15 cwt truck dressed in his pyjamas. He had elected to sleep the night unprotected at the side of the road, folly which the local Kurds much appreciated.

At the end of September the battalion moved to Deround where training on the same lines proceeded as before. Visits from the GOC Tenth Army, General Quinan and the Commander of 21 Indian Corps, General Mayne, served to remind everyone of the seriousness of the situation and also of the fact that their work was being watched and co-ordinated by Army HQ. Early in December the battalion moved to join 6 Indian Division in training in Qasr-i-Shirin and shortly afterwards was sent down to Mussaiyib to take over heavy guard duties there. Here were garrison duties with a vengeance but disappointment was mitigated very greatly by the arrival of the Commando Officer from the Middle East who spent a week with the battalion to report on its suitability for inclusion in the Middle East Commando establishment. He seemed very favourably impressed and the thoughts of all once more turned towards the possibility of getting into action. Heavy guard duties made collective training impossible but much individual work was done and in February with the return of the battalion to Qasr-i-Shirin collective training was resumed under the eye of 5 Indian Division. Though it rained almost incessantly for a month and the camp and the whole area for miles around it became a quagmire.

Lieutenant Colonel E.E French MC, arrived to take over the command and Subedar Major Gul Akbar left on pension. He had been re-employed for service with the Afridi Battalion and his unselfish efforts and profound human understanding were an invaluable contribution towards giving it such an excellent start. He was succeeded by **Subedar Major Khan Baz**. The spring was spent in Kermanshah and in May, orders were



received to return to the Middle East,. The relegation to purely garrison duties again, after the optimism of the spring, was bitter blow. It was during this period on railway protection duty, Major Bacon left to resume his work in the Indian political service and his position as second-in-command was taken by Major Letts. Nor was this the only loss for at the same time Subedar Major Khan Baz, awarded the O.I.B for his service and Subedar Said Anwar I.D.S.M departed. Subedar Hamesh Gul was appointed subedar major.

In **May 1944**, the battalion was relieved and sent up north. Battalion headquarters was established at Tureh near Sultanabad and detachment were sent to Teheran, Kazvim, and Hamdan. A loss at this period was the departure of Captain R.W.Hodson who had been adjutant for almost two years and who was recalled by the Indian Political Service. On the eve of the new year 1945, Lieutenant Colonel French departed and Major Letts was promoted temporary Lt Col and took over command during his absence. Captain D.S Foster and Captain Jehangir Khan (both Frontier Force Regiment) were adjutant and quartermaster respectively.

On arrival in India the battalion was sent to Ferozepor where orders were received to move to Sialkot at the end of January 1945 for disbandment. Lieutenant Colonel J.R.Booth was posted to command through the last closing stages.

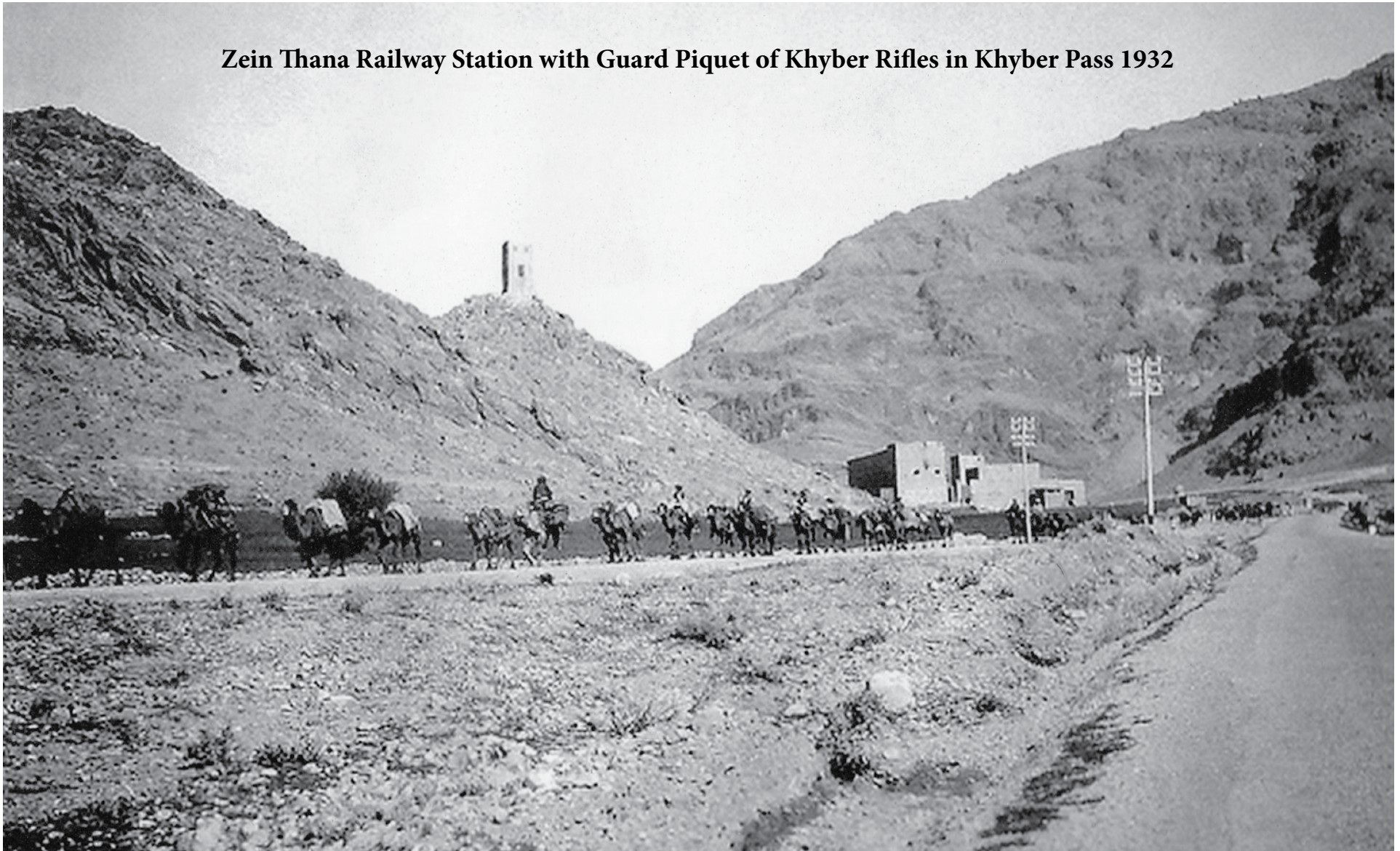
History of the Afridi Battalion is incomplete without mention of the excellent work of the Depot Company under the command of Captain Karamatullah, much credit go to Subedar Bahadur Sher, a re-employed pensioner from the 14th Punjab Regiment.

Commandant Khyber Rifles Lieutenant Colonel Sir George Roos Keppel 1900-1912. Roos also served as political agent in Kurram and raise Kurram Militia, he in 1913 was instrumental in establishing Islamia College, Peshawar.





Zein Thana Railway Station with Guard Piquet of Khyber Rifles in Khyber Pass 1932





Khaibar Railway, to have a rail connection between Peshawar and Afghanistan, first appeared on paper on 16th January 1890, 'Government of India desires that only a reconnaissance should be made of this country in order to determine the practicability of a railway along the Kabul River to a point as near Dakka as the political officer consider safe'. This was turned into, as the 'Proposed railway line along the right bank of the Kabul River from Peshawar to Dakka'. After few months of correspondence, the reality was accepted that without the permission of the Amir of Afghanistan, a railway survey in his territory is futile thus the plan was modified. The initial planning and concept had a bearing on the Khyber Rifles, they were to be increased in number provided the plan is approved but in the end 'under the present circumstances there is no necessity to consider the question of an increase to the strength of the Khyber Rifles' were the concluding remarks, thus ended the first phase of Khaibar Railways.

Survey was however carried out by Captain J.R. Macdonald of Royal Engineers, who was appointed as the executive engineer, in his over hundred page report, names and persons like, Colonel Graves the executive engineer Military Works for Peshawar Division, E. Week, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Colonel Warburton the political officer and Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Aslam Khan Sirdar Bahadur Commandant Khyber Rifles stand out. Captain Macdonald further highlighted that alignment from engineering point should not be restricted to the right or left bank only. Field survey started on 5th February 1890 and by 21st February, they had reached the entrance {Ursak} to the gorge of Kabul River, a distance of 16 miles, further from Ursak to Samsai a distance of 31 miles, beyond which the territory was part of Afghanistan, Dakka is 8 miles further away. All along it was the responsibility of Khyber Rifles to provide protection. The total length of the railway from Peshawar to Dakka was 55 miles, divided into three sections, namely Peshawar – Ursak 'country is easy and open, mostly clay land, partially under cultivation, in mid is the Muttra Jhil which collects the drainage of several large nullahs, second section is from Ursak- Narai a distance of 21 miles, 'river runs in a narrow gorge and varies in width from 30-100 yards, river bed is fairly free from rocks and obstructions, banks are of rock, varying from shale to hard limestone, slopes are steep but only in few places they become absolutely precipitous, final section was Narai –Dakka a length of 18 miles'. Construction of the line began in 1920 and the section from Jamrud to Landi Kotal was opened on 3 November, 1925, and on down to Landi Khanna, just two miles short of the actual Frontier Post, on 3 April, 1926.

The alignment selected by Colonel Hearn is regarded as a classic example of brilliant surveying, and at the formal opening of the Khyber Railway (just another part of the North Western Railway), Sir Clement Hindley, Chief Commissioner of railways, Government of India (later, in 1939, president of the institution of civil engineers), said that from the engineering point of view, the work had no superior in the world. The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Charles Innes, acting on behalf of the Viceroy. Khyber Railway has a ruling gradient of 3 percent between Jamrud and Landi Kotal (3494 feet above sea level). There is a rise of nearly 2000 feet in twenty-one miles and a drop 872 feet in the 4-1/2 miles down to Landi Khanna where the gradient stiffens to 1 in 25.

There are four reversing stations, which are also crossing stations, and six ordinary crossing stations, thirty four tunnels with an aggregate length of three miles, ninety two bridges and culverts, none with a span longer than eighty feet, and four locomotive watering stations. And during the construction, three million cubic yards of material, mainly rock, was moved in the cuttings and embankments. The Khyber Railway was the last of great railway constructions undertaken in the Frontier during the British / Raj. Whether the enormous cost was justified, no one can ever tell, but it brought wealth to the tribesmen who helped build it and proved that a railway could be constructed through the most impossible country.

HISTORY

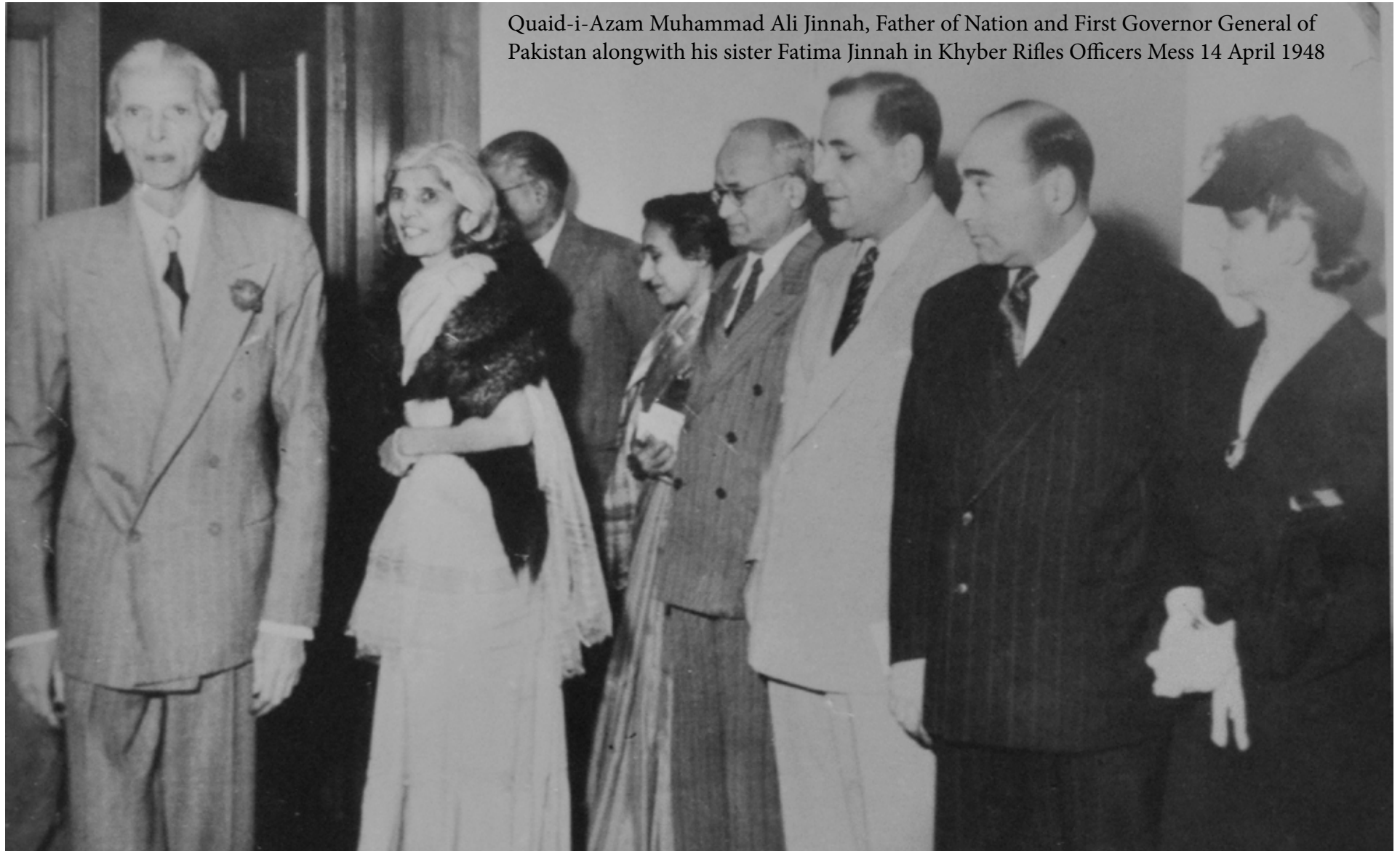
1. FEASIBILITY OF THE SECTION WAS PREPARED BY ENGINEER SIR GULD FORD MOLES, ALONG THE KABUL RIVER.
2. RAWALPINDI - PESHAWAR CANTT. SECTION WAS BUILT IN 1883. IT WAS EXTENDED UP TO JAMRUD IN 1901.
3. RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY FOR JAMRUD - LANDIKOTAL SECTION WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 1879 AND 1898 FOR A NARROW GAUGE TRACK.
4. CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS STARTED IN 1905 BUT SUSPENDED IN 1909.
5. OUT-BREAK OF THIRD AFGHAN WAR, IN MAY 1919, NECESSITATED THE REVIVAL OF THIS PROJECT.
6. COL. HEREN EXAMINED THE ALTERNATE KHYBER ROUTE AND IN 1920 DECISION WAS TAKEN TO CONSTRUCT BROAD GAUGE LINE.
7. JAMRUD - LANDIKOTAL SECTION WAS OPENED ON 3rd Nov. 1925.
8. LANDI KOTAL - LANDI KHAIR SECTION WAS OPENED ON 3rd APRIL 1926 BUT WAS CLOSED ON 15th DECEMBER 1932.
9. FORMAL OPENING OF KHYBER RAILWAYS WAS PERFORMED BY
10. CHARLES INNES, ON BEHALF OF THE VICEROY SIR CLEMENT HINDLEY.



لندی کوتل
LANDI KOTAL







Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Father of Nation and First Governor General of Pakistan alongwith his sister Fatima Jinnah in Khyber Rifles Officers Mess 14 April 1948



Chapter III

Chindits of Khyber

On 1st March 1946 the Khyber Rifles were raised at Sialkot by disbanding the Afridi battalions, ‘*the parade was conducted and there were two set of tables, the soldiers of Afridi Battalion marched forward handed over their discharge papers and step back. Made a salute and marched six steps forward to another table and picked his new papers of being enrolled in the Khyber Rifles*’.⁵⁹ On that day 1243 men were enrolled and all were Afridi. Their average height was 5 feet 8 inches having a chest expansion of 32 inches-34 inches. Furthermore six hundred new recruits were also enrolled and another two hundred were inducted from the Frontier Constabulary, Tochi Scouts and South Waziristan Scouts. The very first commandant was Lieutenant Colonel J.R.Booth DS and Subedar Major Hamesh Gul Malik Din Afridi had the honour to be the first SM of the Khyber Rifles. Other native officers as they were known included Subedar Awaz Gul also MDK he went on pension in 1953, Subedar Alim Khan again a MDK of Zangi village he retired in 1948. Subedar Major Azim Khan was the next SM a Bakka Khel Afridi, he retired in 1961.

Second enrolment took place on 8th April 1946, in which men from other scout corps were also inducted. All in all 1762 men were enrolled in Khyber Rifles by the end of 1946. The procedure of enrolment was the same as in other Frontier Corps, one has to bring the surety of his malik for enrolment. Overwhelmingly all belong to Afridi or from Khyber. Saida Khan Shinwari was the very first from Shinwari qaum to be enrolled on 21st November 1946, he later on rose to the rank of subedar major before retiring with an exemplary character in 1960. Mullagori’s were all having an average age of over 25 years where as the Afridi were in the bracket of 17-19. Mullagori were in the average height of 5.5-5.7 inches. Sepoys were enrolled into the companies with a clan composition, for instance Mullagori were in 3/12 company which means that the 12th platoon of 3rd company was composed of Mullagori, Qambar Khel were in the first company, Daparzai in headquarters company, Zakkha Khel also had the second company for enrolment. There were Yousafzai also but these were mostly old veteran who were put in the headquarters company like Havildar Muhammad Yusuf Yousafzai, he was 44 years of age. For special trades like armourer and black smith the Punjabi Muslims were also enrolled like Armourer Muhammad Sadiq. On the eve of independence the strength was 1838 sepoy.

Organisation

The Khyber Rifles was deployed at Landi Kotal being the headquarters and also a wing was deployed No 1 Wing, under command Major J.Letts he was reverted back to army in March 1947 and was replaced by Major J.M. Penly. No. 2 Wing at Ali Masjid & Shagai, under command Major M.C Smith. Rifle 303 was the standard weapon and firing it without permission was an offence punishable with fines. The discipline and all other matter were conducted under the 1941 North Western Frontier Corps Law, the section 9{p} deals with the firing of weapon⁶⁰. All promotions in the

59 Khyber Rifles Documents, Landi Kotal. The old documents are not kept in an official manner, rather the documents were found, in an old room, full of everything, lying in a trunk. These are enrolment registers, medical record, part one orders. Hence they will be referred as KR Documents.

60 1941 NWFC Law, published by NWFP Government.

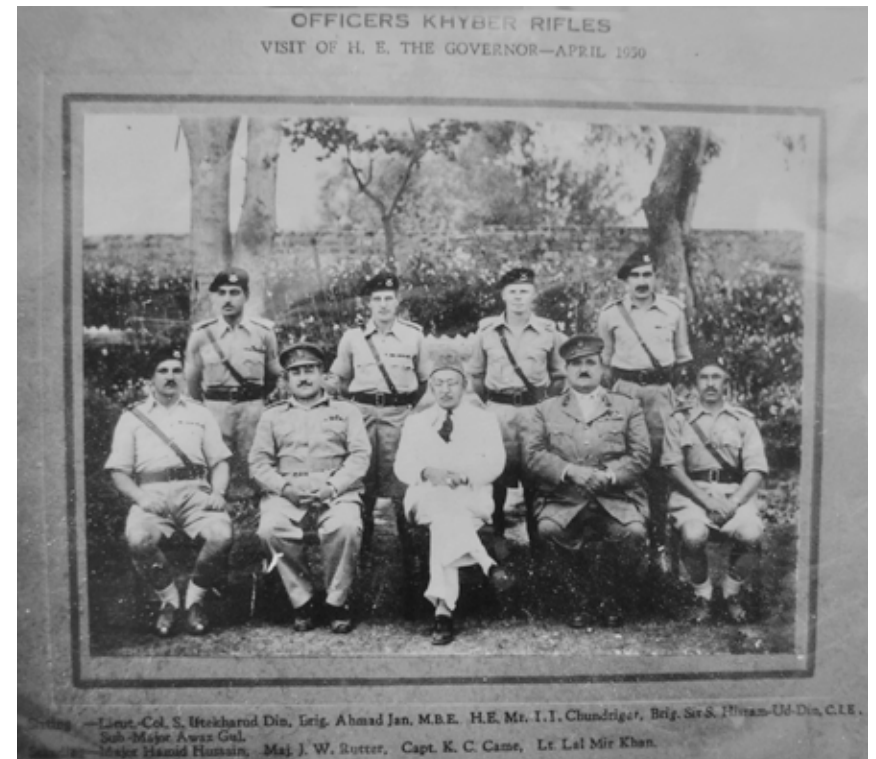


corps especially that of officers and subedars, apart from posting, were published in the NWFP government gazette.

Muslims officers included Captain Karamatullah followed by Captain Jahangir Khan. The pioneer Indian officers {junior commissioned officers} of Khyber Rifles were Subedar Sohbat Khan Kuki Khel, Subedar Ziarat Khan Qambar Khel, Subedar Aka Khel Shah Sipah, Subedar Haider Khan Qambar Khel, Subedar Sheikh Nur Malik Din Khel, Subedar Hasham Ali Zakkha Khel, Jemadar Sadozai Kuki Khel, Jemadar Wazir Shilman, Jemadar Hussain Gul Qambar Khel, Jemadar Lal Akbar Qambar Khel and Jemadar Khiamat Khan Kamrai. They were the nucleus around which the Khyber Rifles took birth in 1946, they all underwent year of probation and they were confirmed in their rank in March 1947⁶¹. In the same breadth there were retirements also, Jemadar Bahadur Khan MDK and Subedar Fazl Rahim were transferred to pension establishment in the spring of 1947.

Discipline was kept strict from the embryo stage for the obvious reason, any regiment which is reincarnated after disbandment and that too due to discipline has to undergo such drills. Loss of empty cartridge case was a crime having a punishment of rupee one as fine; the pay of a soldier was rupees 18 per month. There were frequent transfers from one wing to other, from one company to the other. A sepoy had the choice to get his discharge by paying rupees 30/-; it depended upon service duration as well. Punishment and rewards were the prerogative of the commandant, a wing commander would recommend the soldiers for promotion, on the other hand he would also make a charge sheet for the commandant to award punishment. Absent without leave, over stay leave were the two most common features of soldiers getting punishment. Fourteen days rigorous imprisonment was a normal sentence for over staying leave even if it does not exceed three days in length. Rendering of the government issued items before the expiry of date was another crime. Loss of rifle component was again fined with recovery made through the pay. these included even a small component such as screw band inner or nut screw protector.

Drivers for rash driving were charged and punished as well, driver Payo Shah was deprived of three months 'driver allowance' in mid-February 1947, for injuring a soldier of army at Peshawar in mid December 1946, Naik Abdul Majeed had to forfeit his two month driving allowance



61 Commandant Policy letter, dated. 25th April 1946, Khyber Rifle Documents.



for rash driving 'he drove a government truck in a negligent manner'⁶². Lance Naik Ati Khan forfeited three days pay for exceeding speed limit in Landi Kotal camp. Sepoy driver Zangir also had to forfeit his three days pay for driving on right of road without sufficient cause⁶³. The aim was to instill the traffic discipline and there is no better and more efficient way than inflicting financial loss. Even use of foul language or insulting manners by a sepoy or any junior to his senior was a charge sheet offense.

Breaking of a bulb was another crime punishable with fine, Sepoy Baidar Gul had never seen an electric bulb before and he hit it with a stone to see what is inside he had to pay Rs 2/12/- for the knowledge he gained⁶⁴. If a sentry failed to perform his duty then it was his guard commander who had to face the music, being reduced to naik. But the best is when Lance Naik Kaim Gul was charge on 15th April 1947, the last day of Lieutenant Colonel Booth 's command 'an act prejudiced to good order & military discipline in that he was extremely idle on guard'; end result was 'deprived of his lance naik rank'.⁶⁵

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sharif Khan MBE, took over the command of the Khyber Rifles on 25th April 1947, Khyber Rifles thus have the distinction of being the only Frontier Corps corps to have a native Muslim officer in command on independence. Lieutenant Rahmat Ullah Durrani of Frontier Force{FF} Rifles joined Khyber Rifles on 24th July 1947.

Lieutenant Colonel Sharif maintained the same high standards of discipline, 'failing to report that the telephone at the post is out of order and to ensure that the sentry at his piquet is alert' was the charge which resulted in severe reprimand for Havildar Sher Afghan at Piquet 3040 on 25th April 1947, the very first day of Sharif's command. A subedar on promotion was put on a probation period of one year, a naib subedar was called a jamadar and a subedar as subedar. In the absence of commandant the wing commander at Landi Kotal {Major J.Letts} used to perform as the commanding officer. Musketry prizes were meant for good firer, in very such event Havildar Jallat Khan scored 62 points in medium machine gun category, Naik Sherza Khan had the first position in first class with 45 points. Prize generally ranges between rupees one to two. Soldiers were granted two months leave and officers 28 days leave known as War leave within India.

Training of different trade was carried out rigorously, signallers were trained at Peshawar Signals School, it included Morse Code reading, exchange operating. Wireless procedures and radio telegraphy; they were judged as good, very good or fair in each category, signal platoon commander was Jamadar Said Amir and he was authorized to draw a special allowance. Their examination included buzz reading, signalling, flag reading, Halio or lamp reading, cable jointing and cells primary.

Company weapon courses were attended at infantry weapons wing, Infantry School at Saugor. The students were graded in knowledge and in instructional ability, a jamadar was authorized a batman in normal course of duty and also while on a course as well, it may come as surprise but it used to take only three days to move from Landi Kotal and report at Poona. Arsenal stores were brought from Rawalpindi.

62 Khyber Rifles,Part One Order, dated 15 January 1947.

63 Khyber Rifles,Part One Order, dated 8th February 1947.

64 Khyber Rifles Part One Order, dated 22 November 1946.

65 Khyber Rifles Part One Order, dated 15 April 1947.



An educational establishment was raised in April 1947, there were 15 soldiers who formed part of it headed by Jemadar Safdar Khan and Jemadar Gulab Khan, they were given a staff allowance of Rupees 10/-pm.

The purchase of mules was conducted from Saharanpur, where a party of no less than ten soldiers with a havildar would proceed for purchase from Remount Depot; it would take almost three weeks for the complete exercise. These mules were branded with letter K, Khyber Rifles had the mules having serial number from 800 onwards for instance No.K891 was a mare and K979 was a Gelding mule. Sick animals were treated and admitted at Peshawar veterinary hospital, a mule driver was always required to act as the attendant. In March 1947, mule driver stayed at Peshawar veterinary hospital with two sick donkeys for almost three weeks and it was counted as duty.

Ration was good and sufficient, soldiers were provided ration at reduced rates , in January 1947, the Khyber Rifles was providing ration at following rates. Atta 3 seers and two chattaks cost one rupee, in same amount a soldier could buy 12 chattaks of sarsoon oil or 11 seers of salt. Clerk Shiva, a Hindu, an efficient typist was mainly responsible for typing the Part 2 orders and as such was always held in high esteem by the soldiers. There were few Hindus and Sikhs in Khyber Rifles as well like Bhisti Gulab Singh, Ram Dass, sweeper Walia , Marai, Uda, Nawab and Peshawari, to name few, all such trades including dhobi come under the S company. Even Muhammad Ayub dhobi was struck off the strength because he was unlikely to become an efficient dhobi whereas Dhobi Zain Gul was retained⁶⁶. There were honorary appointments among the trades, these were purely for keeping discipline and had no effect in pay, only commandant was authorised to make such honorary appointments, recruits after enlistment were posted to the wings who were responsible for training which included mainly firing and drill.

14th August 1947. It was a glorious day, sunny but windy, few clouds hovering over the Tantarra ridge, Subedar Major Azim Khan Qambar Khel and Jemadar Dilawar Khan Kuki Khel were made second lieutenants on this auspicious day. A Bara Khanna was held to celebrate the independence of Pakistan. For the tribesmen, it was hard to understand the significance of the day, for them , it was the departure of the British and implementation of Islamic Laws. They were never subjects of British law in true sense and as such had no perception of being a Dominion or Colonial subject. The tribes had no real qualm with the British, what took place against the British was no exception to the treatment meted to Sultans of Delhi, Mughuls or Sikhs.

1947 and Afridi

The political situation in the India resulted in the formation of Pakistan and India; ironically it was in NWFP that Congress was having the government, a referendum was held in the province to determine its fate. Tribal area especially the Khyber Pass and Afridis also had stakes in the future. In the first three months of 1947 Afridis cut the Khyber Pass thrice, they declared, we won't deal with Congress, we won't deal with Muslim League, We may deal with a government representing both sides, We own the Khyber Pass and will bargain on that basis. Malik Abdul Latif Khan Malik Din Afridi, reiterated the same to Viceroy Lord Mountbatten during his visit to Khyber in 1947, he threatened to negotiate with Afghanistan unless future relations were adjusted to tribal satisfaction. In January 1948 Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Liaqat Ali Khan visited Khyber Agency and

⁶⁶ Khyber Rifles, Part One and Two orders, dated 20th May 1946 and 17th August 1946.



again maliks pressed hard for an increase in allowances. On 14th April 1948, Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Khyber Pass and Khyber Rifles, tribal leaders again raised the issue of having a new deal with them and it was finalised on 17th April 1948, when a grand Jirga of over 200 maliks pledged their allegiance to Pakistan.

Kashmir Jihad & Khyber Rifles 1947-48

Kashmir, in Sanskrit, implies land desiccated from water: “ka” (the water) and shimeera (to desiccate) Kashmir a land locked Himalayan kingdom comprising of 86000 square kilometers and half a million people all overwhelmingly Muslims, like other princely states, Kashmir was supposed to join one of the dominions, it initially delayed but the independence wave which started from Poonch soon engulfed the whole of Kashmir. The tribesmen from the tribal areas soon swarmed upon the valley in aid of their Muslim brethren, Jihad was declared and war continued for another year before a cease fire line was agreed upon in January 1949.

In April/May 1948, four platoons of Khyber Rifles under command, Subedar Major Azim Khan were sent to Kashmir to participate in the operation along with the lashkar. Soon after the subedar major was replaced by Captain Karamat Ullah Khan, the Adjutant of the Khyber Rifles was attached with 4 Baluch Regiment now 11 Baluch at Bibi Dori. 4 Baluch was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Kelly (later Commandant of South Waziristan Scouts).

In May, June and July active patrolling was carried to dominate the No Mans Land. During the period a very important ambush was laid. The place selected was Khatir Nar. Two platoons (one from 4 Baluch and one from Khyber Rifles) were selected to lay the ambush. It was a complete surprise and very successful. The Indian suffered fifteen casualties, arms and ammunition were also captured. This ambush had a salutary effect and the Indians became very sensitive and avoided patrolling in the ‘No Man Land’. Our troops regained the initiative by vigorous patrolling. With the help of lashkar several jittering actions were taken.

By the end of July 1948, our own troops and intelligence had a fair idea of enemy dispositions and strength. Therefore, it was decided to plan a big raid, by the middle of August, the idea of a big raid was changed into an attack and capture of Pandu. Harvey Kelly, being an English man⁶⁷, was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel (Later Major General) Sher Bahadur. Plan originally made by Kelly remained intact with minor modifications.

Two companies under Major (later lieutenant colonel) Hafiz Afridi to capture Pandu Point, a vital ground, this force consisted of one company ex 4 Baluch and one company ex 17 Baluch, rest of 4 Baluch, under command Lieutenant Colonel Sher Bahadur to capture Pandu Village.

Two platoons of **Khyber Rifles** plus two companies of Muzaffarabad Battalion and Lashkar Mohmand, under Command Major Karamt Ullah Khan to Nardajian – Kandar Kuzi forest and captured Ring Contour thus blocking the Indians route of withdrawal to Chotta Kazinag. Two companies of Muzaffarabad Battalion and two platoons of Khyber Rifles to remain in their present positions as reserves

⁶⁷ It is not due to any doubt on his loyalty, rather to avoid Dominion's lacuna.



A Lashkar of Mahsud to occupy a position between Pandu village and Point 6873 to cut the route of withdrawal of troops at point 6873. Artillery support to be given by artillery regiment under command Major (Later Brigadier) Shami.

Chronological Events

On night 19/20 August 1948 the main force under command Lieutenant Colonel Sher Bahadur moved to the concentration area at Gujar Bandi. This force remained hidden on 20th August in the same place. On night 20/21 August, the force moved as planned, one column under Major Hafiz Afridi moved to Pandu Point. This force reached the objective before dawn and occupied the position. Luckily the enemy was not occupying this vital ground although the position had been well prepared by means of strong bunkers.

The rest of the force under Lieutenant Colonel Sher Bahadur advanced to Pandu village by a different route and enroute met opposition and were taken by surprise. Taking up positions in darkness and to wait till next morning would have given chance to the Indians to retaliate. Moreover, the main force would have been delayed and thus diverted, from their aim of capturing Pandu village. Lieutenant Colonel Sher very rightly decided to contain this enemy force, with a platoon and skirted this position. Local guides were of great help in this bold and correct decision. By morning of 21 August 1948, the main force attacked Pandu Village. This position was very strongly held and on the top of it enemy force at Point. 1, Point. 2 and Point. 3 started withdrawing that day. The Mahsud Lashkar could not effectively block them. Our main force suffered casualties and enemy forces from Points {1,2,3} were able to join and reinforce the main force. At this juncture news came that our own forces had occupied Pandu Peak. Now everything was going against the plan and this is where the real test of commanders come and Lieutenant Colonel Sher Bahadur judged the situation and read the battle correctly ; withdrew his force from this battle and joined own force at Pandu Peak. This was vital ground and the enemy at Pandu Village came under effective observation and fire from this place.

Karamat Force of Khyber Rifles as it was called also moved from Bibi Dori the same night as the main force i.e. on 19/20 August. The force reached Nardajia and remained hidden the whole day of 20th August. On night 20/21 August , the force marched by a path to Kathar Nar and from there through very difficult terrain of the Kandar Kunzi forest. Due to thick shrubs the movement was very slow, when the force reached a point enroute, the enemy (probably patrol) opened up fire. After a sharp exchange of fire, the enemy withdrew to his main position at Akram where the fire exchange lasted till the afternoon of 21 August when the place was charged and captured. The enemy left behind few dead and one prisoner of war, apart from ammunition, food and clothing. Two platoons of Khyber Rifles occupied Akram while the two platoons of Muzaffarabad Battalion were sent to Gul which was also occupied. Patrols were sent to Pandu village which were fired upon. This was a clear indication that Pandu village was still occupied by Indians. The wireless communication broke down with the main force owing to the small set and thick jungle.

The Mohmand Lashkar after the capture of the place, busied themselves in the loot and some bolted with the loot. The Mahsud Lashkar also reached their assigned place but unfortunately they could not block the troops at F-1, F-2 and F-3 from rejoining the main force at Pandu. However, their presence in the area was of immense advantage. The Indians were afraid of them and the use of Chura (Knife) of Waziristan days was still fresh in their minds.



During all these operations, the guns of Major Shami were of immense help and morale boosting. This energetic officer was to be seen everywhere and remained in the thick of battle throughout.

Vigorous patrolling was carried out on night 21/22 August in order to find out enemy extent and strength at Pandu village. 4 Baluch was ordered to launch an attack on this village on 23 August. At the same time 2/12 FF Regiment was also ordered to join 4 Baluch and to be ready to capture Chota Kazinag. After the capture of Chota Kazinag, Karamat Force was to exploit it upto Chinal Dori. This order was received by all concerned and hectic preparations started.

*On night 22/23 August, the Indians started shelling our positions very intensely and every one of us expected an Indian attack that night or at dawn. On the morning of 23 August however, the Indians attack did not come but when 4 Baluch and 2/12 FFR advanced on Pandu village, it was found vacant. The enemy had slipped and this huge shelling was a ruse for the withdrawal of the troops at Pandu village. The enemy had withdrawn via Sufaida Gap – Bala Sethu – Gundigeran.*⁶⁸

The enemy left behind huge dump of ammunition, ration and weapons at Pandu. After capture of Pandu, liaison was made by the main force with Karamat Force at Akram. On 24 August 2/12 FFR moved via route Akram – Gul to Chota Kazinag. The enemy by then had occupied Chota and had also sent patrols up. These patrols were pushed back by 2/12 FF Regiment. In the meantime Karamat Force also followed 2/12 FF Regiment, so that it should be ready at hand to exploit upto Chinal Dori once Kazinag was captured. The day was cloudy and occasionally it was drizzling and visibility was poor. 2/12 FF Regiment steadily advanced and captured point 10425. The company commander was unable to observe the Point 10657, which was only 250 Yards off due to fog and mist. He thus reported that Kazinag had been captured. It was a signal for Karamat Force to advance to Chinal Dori. This was more or less going in single file due to narrow path and sheer cliffs on either side, from point 10657, heavy machine gun fire was encountered and the leading section sustained casualties. The intensity of fire indicated that Kazinag was strongly occupied and also due to the narrow approach to the position it was not considered advisable to pursue the advance. Troops were withdrawn to 2/12 FF position. Two companies of Muzaffarabad Battalion were then sent to Chinal Dori via Chitrian and it was reported that, position was also occupied in strength.

Khyber Rifles were awarded with following medals, one Mujahid Kashmir , One certificate of Bahaduri and two Tamgha Jurats⁶⁹.

Thus the battle of Pandu ended in the capture of Pandu Peak, Pandu Village. Chota Kazinag i.e substantial area on account of this operation. Indians were forced to withdrew from their Chakthi position in order to straighten up their defence lay out. In this very important operation which stands out as a silver lining of new born Pakistan, Khyber Rifles showed its worth and proved that it was second to none. It finally restored its lost pride.

⁶⁸ War Diary Khyber Rifles.

⁶⁹ Frontier Corps an Introduction Frontier Corps Publication, 1967, restricted publication, p-109.



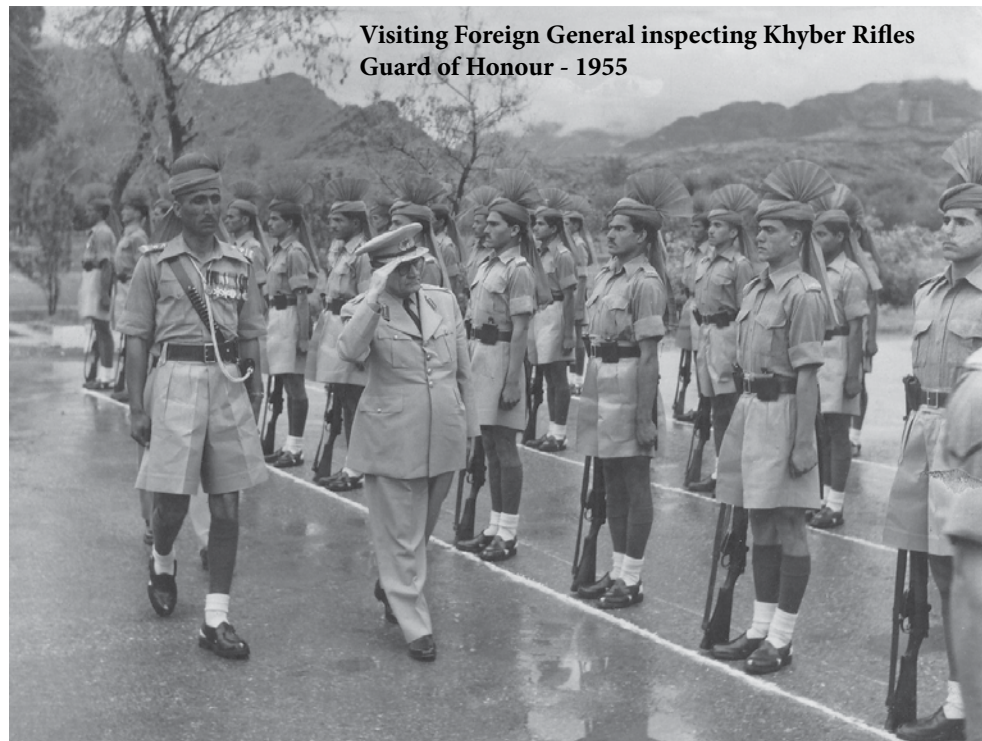
Khyber Rifles - 1957



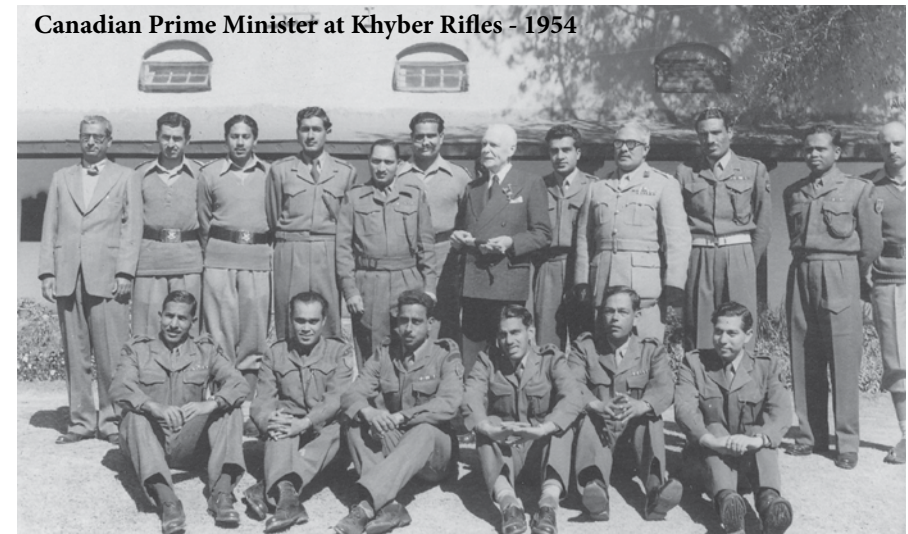


Khyber Rifles - 1950s

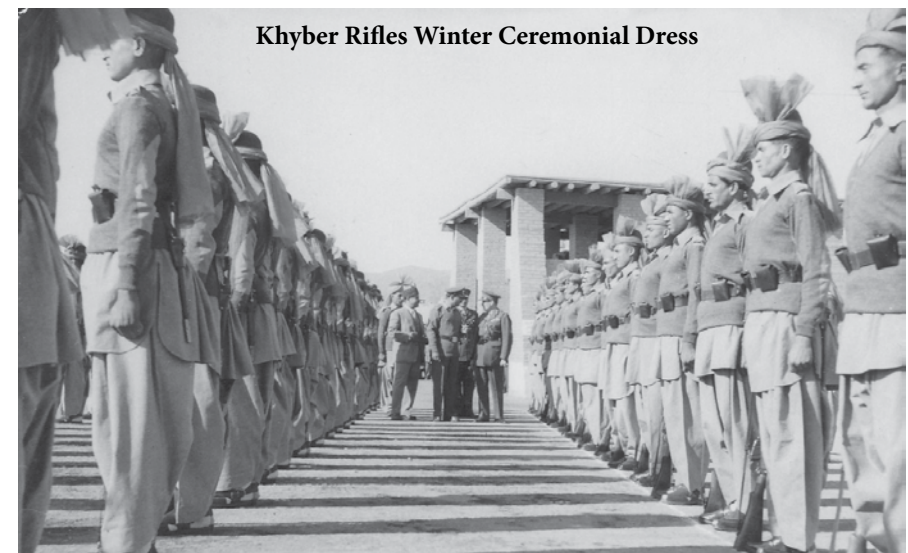
In July 1954, the class composition of the Khyber Rifles underwent a drastic change when eight platoons of Afridi were replaced by the six platoons of Khattak which comprised of two platoons each of Akora, {seni and barak} and two platoons of Yousafzai, the latter were transferred from Zhob Militia and former from South Waziristan Scouts. Thus the original composition of the corps being comprised exclusively of Khyber Agency tribes was altered, next year in August 1955, an additional but temporary increase of eight platoons along with two officers were sanctioned, this was exclusively for the Warsak Dam protection which was being constructed. These eight platoons



Visiting Foreign General inspecting Khyber Rifles
Guard of Honour - 1955



Canadian Prime Minister at Khyber Rifles - 1954



Khyber Rifles Winter Ceremonial Dress





1. Prince Akihito, Princess Michiko of Japan at Khyber Rifles, 25 January 1962, (Presently Emperor of Japan)
2. King Bhumibol Adulyadej & Queen Sirikit of Thailand, 1962
3. Queen Elizabeth II - 1961
4. Emperor Raza Shah Pehlvi and Field Marshal Ayub Khan - 1967
5. King Hussein of Jordan

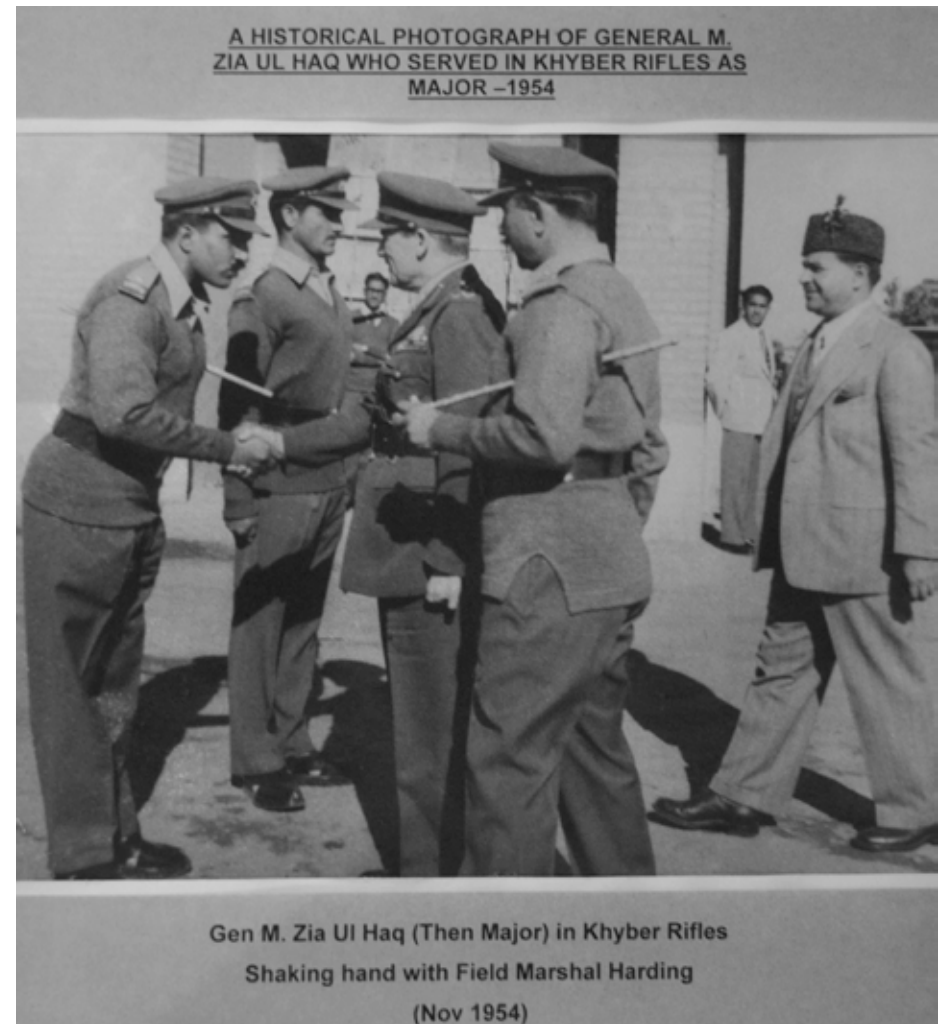


had Orakzai & Bangash both Sunnis {two platoons each} , Adam Khel Afridi also had two platoons and Daur and Wazir one each; these platoons were newly raised where as other were transferred from Tochi Scouts and South Waziristan Scouts. Daur tribe, were for the first time inducted in Frontier Corps, The overall strength of the corps thus reached an all-time high of 9 officers, 58 JCOs, 101 havildars, 102 naiks and 1639 lance naiks and sepoys there by making a grand total of 1909.

Major Zia Ul Haq. Later Chief of Army Staff and President of Pakistan, reported at Khyber Rifles in March 1954 from Guides Cavalry, he had served on temporary attachment with Tochi Scouts also but now he was permanently posted, he commanded No. 3 Wing which mainly looks after the Warsak Dam. His family also moved here at Landi Kotal. Major Zia-ul-Haq was a popular officer mainly due to his good nature, humbleness and religious inclination and all these are the qualities most required in a scout officer along with good physical stamina and professional approach. He despite all his efforts could not master the Pashtu language but he understood it when others were speaking. A keen tennis player and always a volunteer for gashts. When General Zia became the president and he visited his old Rifles , his handiwal {batman} approached him and requested for the construction of a track till his village Inayat Killi, General Zia, smilingly not only sanctioned a road as per his handiwal's desire but also made sure that electricity should also reach there. Present Chahrbaugh road thus not only benefits the killi but the Khyber Rifles also gained immense advantage as it now link it with main pass.

In 1957, the corps was being commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sherin Khan who later on, not only became the Inspector General Frontier Corps but also had the distinction of becoming a three star general officer.

As a commandant his contributions are many but compiling of the standing orders was a deep reaching act. *'Khyber Rifles was responsible for the protection of the international border Durand Line all along the Khyber Agency's limits, it was also responsible to guard and protect within the*





agency the lines of communication both rail and road, protection of Warsak Dam and other pumping stations and above all to assist the political administration in the maintenance of law and order’.

In 1960, a renowned historian Arnold Toynbee visited Pakistan and India, his reflections on Khyber Pass ‘in this northern world round Peshawar, times are changing...today one can travel through the pass and back by Afridi bus service, and the tribute has turned into fare...business was mundane, they {passengers} were bound for Landi Kotal market place, where Russian teapots, German wireless sets and Indian gauzes can be bought at prices which make the rail or bus fare from Peshawar, worth paying’.⁷⁰



Governor West Pakistan Ameer Muhammad, Queen Elizabeth II, Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmad, Commandant Khyber Rifles 1961



King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej shaking hand with officers of Khyber Rifles

⁷⁰ Arnold Toynbee *Between Oxus & Jumna*, {London, Oxford, 1961}, reprinted by Army Education Press, Rawalpindi, 1983, p-17.



War - 1965

A contingent of Khyber Rifles took prominent part in the Indo-Pak War 1965. Two companies of Khyber Rifles were sent to Bimber Sector and two more companies went to Titwal Sector in Kashmir. In Titwal Sector the headquarters of both companies was at Chug Pahar, with platoons at Hajira, Sunjawa and Jabri. One of the company was task, under the command of Major Riaz to cross the Indian Border. They remained in the area for three days and had nearly reached their objectives but due to change in the plan, the company was recalled. During operation, the enemy attacked Khyber Rifles's Mortor Platoon. The platoon was under command of **Subedar Yaqub Khan Afridi**. The enemy was repulsed with heavy casualties. In this operation Subedar Yaqub Khan showed qualities of leadership and for his personal bravery he was awarded **Sitara-i-Jurat**. The troops remained in Kashmir for six months and after the ceasefire were withdrawn to Khyber. **A Sitara-I-Jurat was awarded**, the troops were also honored by two Imtiaz Sanads as well. One of the key reason for their success was the physical fitness which they possessed by virtue of living and operating in mountainous territories. Four soldiers of Khyber Rifles embraced shahadat and six were wounded.⁷¹

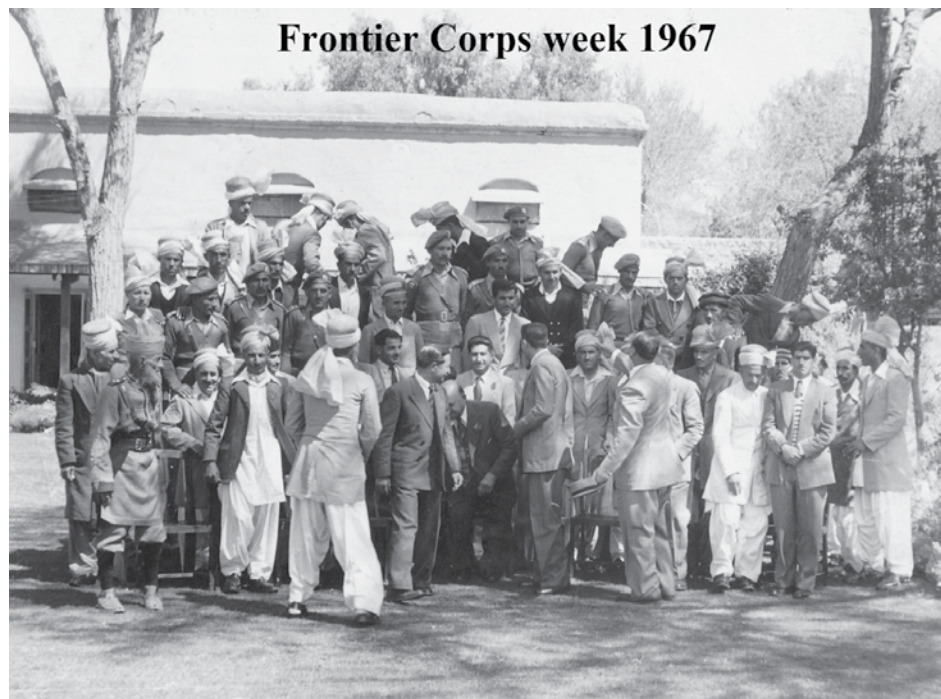
Khyber Rifles - 1966

It was happy time, the nation had just won the war against the arch enemy India and tribal contribution was highly appreciated. In the post 1965, the Khyber Rifles emphasized on training, establishing a training camp at Kacha Garhi; putting all the wings into the training cycles. Khassadar were also trained, 1600 such Khassadar were imparted training by the Khyber Rifles in 1966 alone, it was conducted at Landi Kotal and Jamrud. Life went as usual, sports competition were held on inter wing basis. Basketball was won by the headquarters wing, football by No. 2 Wing, Khud race, shooting were won by No.1 Wing which also won the championship banner and trophy. 'Many officers of the corps were invited to attend this function... the response from pensioners JCOs very encouraging'.⁷² Major Khush Ahmed ul Mulk the second in command of Khyber Rifles retired after rendering 20 years of meritous

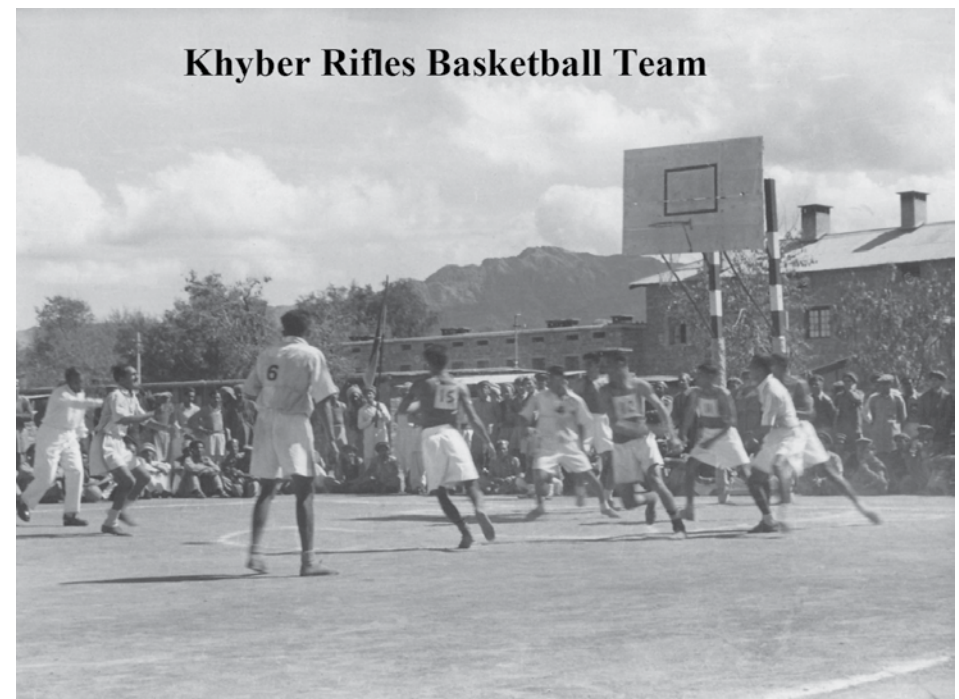
71 *Frontier Corps an Introduction* Frontier Corps Publication, 1967, restricted publication, p-109.

72 *Frontier Corps News Letter*, 1966, p-36.





Frontier Corps week 1967



Khyber Rifles Basketball Team

service in the Frontier Corps, we wish him happy and prosperous life'.⁷³ Some of the pioneer names of Khyber Rifles like Subedars; Khan Asghar Malik din Khel, Shah Jem Mahsud, Khan Sher Orakzai, Akbar Khan Adam Khel and Naib Subedars; Janat Mir Barak Khattak, Zohar Din Adam Khel and Meraj Gul Bangash retired in 1966. On the other hand Mian Shah Malik din Khel, Matiullah Mahsud, Kahmat Shah Orakzai, Azbar Khan Qamber Khel, Yaqin Shah Adam Khel were promoted as subedars while Ayub Khan Mahsud, Habibur Rehman Barak Khattak, Said Muhammad Orakzai, Gul Nazar Qamber Khel, Muhammad Akbar Adam Khel and Abdullah Jan Bangash were promoted as naib subedars. Havildar Gulmat Shah Orakzai and Havildar Said Afzal both were awarded Tamgha I Khidmat in 1966.

No less than 24 distinguished visitors grace the Khyber Rifles in 1966 alone including His Majesty King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Annual Frontier Corps Week is the high point of Frontier Corps, it is a regular event comprising of sports, firing, get together and conference of all corps; only in recent past it has not been held due to security reasons. **In 1967**, Khyber Rifles stood first in football, they shared the trophy with

⁷³ Frontier Corps News letter, 1966.



Zhob Militia but they were the sole trophy holder in basketball. The high point for Khyber Rifles in the year was the visit of His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah Aryamehr of Iran on 8th March 1967. Officers present in Khyber Rifles in the year included apart from the commandant Lieutenant Colonel Gaideen Khan, were, Major Malik Muhammad Azim, Major Masroor Ali Naqvi, Major Qurban Ullah Khan, Captain Muhammad Bashir and Captain Muhammad Ishaque. Officers as mentioned before were all from regular army, mostly they would be posted in on promotion. Subedar Amir Muhammad was promoted as subedar major in this year, Shah of Iran was present at his promotion. No less than nine junior commissioned officers were promoted to next rank and fourteen havildars were also promoted to next rank in this year. On the other hand 21 JCOs went on retirement after completing their service with dignity and honour. The annual individual and collective training was completed achieving the desired parameters, for a change, the annual training was held at Warai in Dir State rather than at the traditional Kachagarhi training area. Two commando platoons also underwent extensive and intensive training from an army commando team.⁷⁴

1968 '*busy and uneventful year for the corps*'.⁷⁵ Khyber Rifles were mainly busy in anti-smuggling of food grains to Afghanistan, as such check posts were established at Attock Bridge {3 June 1967- 15th October 1968}, another check post was erected at Jamrud. Issue of sugar price and availability was quite sensitive at that time period, Khyber Rifles one platoon was as such deputed at Premier Sugar mill at Mardan. Gashts {patrolling} were combined into tactical exercises, thereby making the gasht more useful. One platoon of the Khyber Rifles took part in the Frontier Corps commando exercise at Chakdara. In sports, Football was won by No. 2 Wing, whereas the basketball, shooting, Khud race was won by No. 1 Wing. Havildar Mir was declared as the best firer of the Khyber Rifles and Sepoy Duniya Gul was the best runner of the Khyber Rifles for the year 1968. Khyber Rifles had four majors {Malik Muhammad Khan, Ahmed Mukhtar Khan, Naeem Ahmad Qureshi and Naseem Ahmad Khan} and two captains, with Lieutenant Colonel Gaideen Khan Abdullai as the commandant

In **March 1969**, Martial Law was declared in the country, Frontier Corps was already in the process of reorganization, it was delayed a bit but soon a conference was held at Dir in which it was finalized, in 1970, only the first phase was completed. Reorganization was mainly regarding the strength in a company and platoon level. Swat State was merged in Pakistan and it necessitated a deployment of Khyber Rifles wing for internal security. Martial Law's impact and effects on military are manifold, first and foremost, it disrupts the training of the military, 'The dawn of the year witnessed a great political change in the country; and had its impact felt even in Khyber Rifles. The training programme so meticulously worked out, was to give way to Internal Security duties'.⁷⁶ These hitches are common and as such the corps are geared to impart training in any situation. New recruits were given an intense uninterrupted training of 25 weeks and the end result was the colourful Attestation Parade which was graced by the Inspector General Frontier Corps Brigadier Mahmud Jan, who took the salute and distributed prizes among the passed out recruits. 'Smartness, the turnout and the machine-like precision of recruits and their drill received generous applause from all spectators'. Recruits dress was militia where as the commandant was wearing the militia shirt with a cross belt and a beret. Attestation or the Qasam Parade was held, in which all the recruits raise their right hand and make a qasam of being loyal to the Khyber Rifles. The parade used to be the main event of Landi Kotal town, as all the near and dear

74 Frontier Corps NWFP, Newsletter, 1967, p-22, Restricted circulation.

75 Frontier Corps NWFP, News Letter, 1968, pp-28-31. Restricted Circulation.

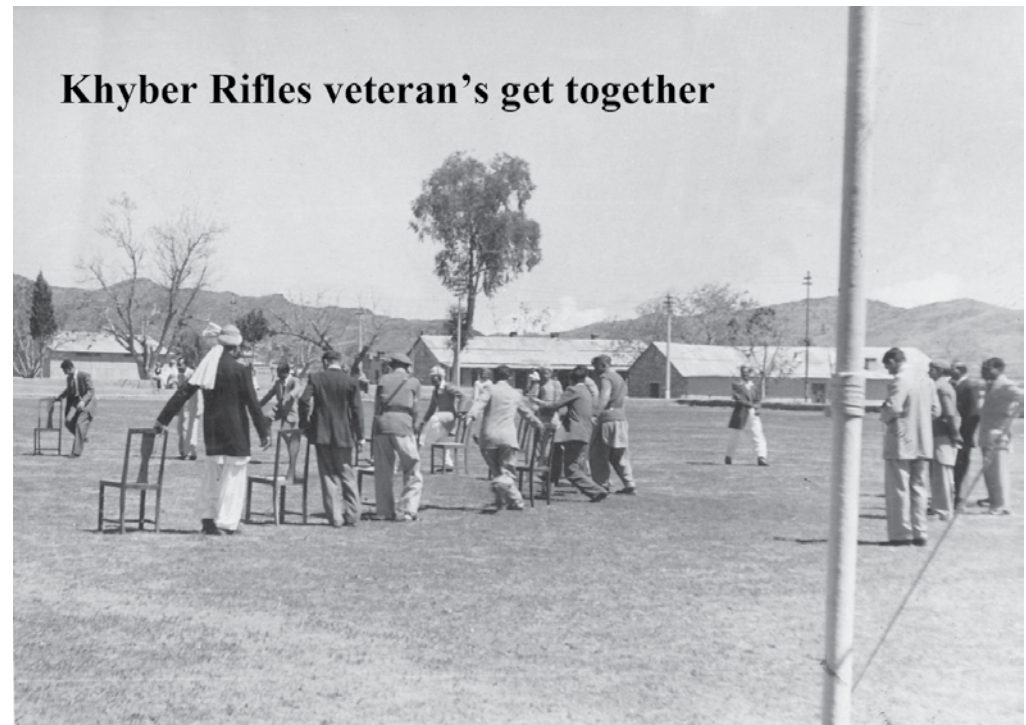
76 Frontier Corps NewsLetter, 1970, p-30.



ones of new soldier belonging to different tribes would come from all part of Khyber Agency, to be part of this memorable day.

Another key feature of the annual training was the emphasis on firing or Range Classification, grenade throwing was also part of the range classification. Inter-Corps commando competition was newly initiated by the Headquarters Frontier Corps and as such all the corps including Khyber Rifles practiced hard for the coveted trophy. Additional check posts were established by the Khyber Rifles at Jamrud, Takhta Beg and Ropa for anti smuggling, where as anti-powindah posts were established at Big Ben, Chota Frontier, Inzarai Kandao and pumping station; both acts contrary to local culture. Powindah are the nomads of Hindukush, who migrate to plains in winter, similar in patter which the Aryans did two millenniums' ago, only difference between them is that Powindah still loves to roam freely rather than settling. They have animals to graze and as livelihood, they would come down in numbers, spent the winter and leave back for their highlands at the onset of summer. The emergence of statehood in end eighteenth century in form of frontiers did hamper their customs and it is still going on; now the Powindah are almost an extinct culture, the Hippie culture which

was prevailing at that time on the frontier was no different in principle to the concept of Powindah life. The major reason for their no-entry was the food crisis in Pakistan, in 1961, there was also anti-powindah posts in North Waziristan, thus they were not regular rather as and when the government decides. Many a tragic incidents occurred due to these anti-Powindah posts along the Durand Line, where families starved to death in bitter cold. Smuggling is the most confused term on frontier and especially in Khyber Pass, for centuries the free flow of fruit, dry fruit is coming from Kabul and cherished in sub-continent and similarly plains of Indus Valley are the food stock of Central Asia. Over a period of time, the enforcement of laws being applied in totality across the country ranging from Karachi to Khyber have initiated debates of varying intensity. Tribes point of view is that first of all he is not aware of modern statehood and its implication on his personal and tribal life and on the other hand it is equally difficult to make any official who have not been to the tribal areas to understand the importance of tribal alliances in maintaining the strategic balance on Hindukush. Events later in the history validates the policy of commandants Khyber Rifles and political agents, in having a flexible approach with the tribes based upon realism rather than on idealism.



Khyber Rifles veteran's get together



War 1971

Khyber Rifles contingent, of three companies was sent to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in April 1971, they travelled first to Peshawar, then to Rawalpindi and from there went by train to Karachi. Khyber Rifles went to Dacca by air and then further to Sylhet Sector. During their stay they performed various duties and were attached with different army units. East Pakistan is entirely different from West Pakistan, not only culturally but geographically and especially in terms of weather, it was a severe shock for the men. They gave good account of themselves during the war.

On our Western Front three companies of Khyber Rifles went to Gilgit. Out of these one company was deployed in Minimarg. The other two companies under **Command** Major Aslam Janjua were sent to Chilum via Astur. The troops under such difficult conditions behaved extremely well, vigorous patrolling was carried out. A contingent of Bajaur Scouts was also in the vicinity .

In 1974 Mohmand Rifles was to be raised and to help in the raising a strong contingent of Khyber Rifles was sent to Mohmand Agency for security reasons.

S.NO	RANK	NAME	YAER	NAME OF OP
1	SEP	SHAH AFZAL	1965	WAR
2	"	AJMEER KHAN	"	"
3	NK	FAZAL AKBAR	"	"
4	"	GULAB KHAN	"	"
5	LNK	FAZAL HAKIM	"	"
6	"	FAZAL HAKEEM	1971	"
7	SEP	NAZIR JAN	"	"
8	"	MAIZ ULLAH	"	"
9	"	KHAN NOOR GUL	"	"
10	"	KHABIDA SHAH	"	"
11	"	SHAH LOZAN	"	"
12	"	AJAB KHAN	"	"
13	"	MAJID GUL	"	"

Khyber Pass and Landi Kotal - Seventies

Khyber Pass was at its zenith, in terms of culture, waves after wave of happy Hippy tourists passed through it, mostly stoned. Landi Kotal by then had acquired a reputation of being the hub of hashish and weapons. Indian movies were banned after 1965 in Pakistan but they were being screened in Kabul, quite a number of people especially from Lahore used to travel to Kabul to watch the films. Kabul was to Pakistani people then, what Dubai is today, in terms of shopping. Jamrud also flourished on same reputation. It was truly an ilaqa ghair {forbidden area} as far as the common perception was, yet , no female tourist was ever subject to indignity or humiliation by the tribes. The Russian military intervention in Afghanistan , changed the scenario, the tourists stopped coming through this historic pass and so was the travel of Pakistanis to Kabul . During the ten years old Russian military presence in Afghanistan, the life on Pass was as usual, normal as it was for centuries; Khyber Pass remained open throughout the period.

Khyber and Hashish

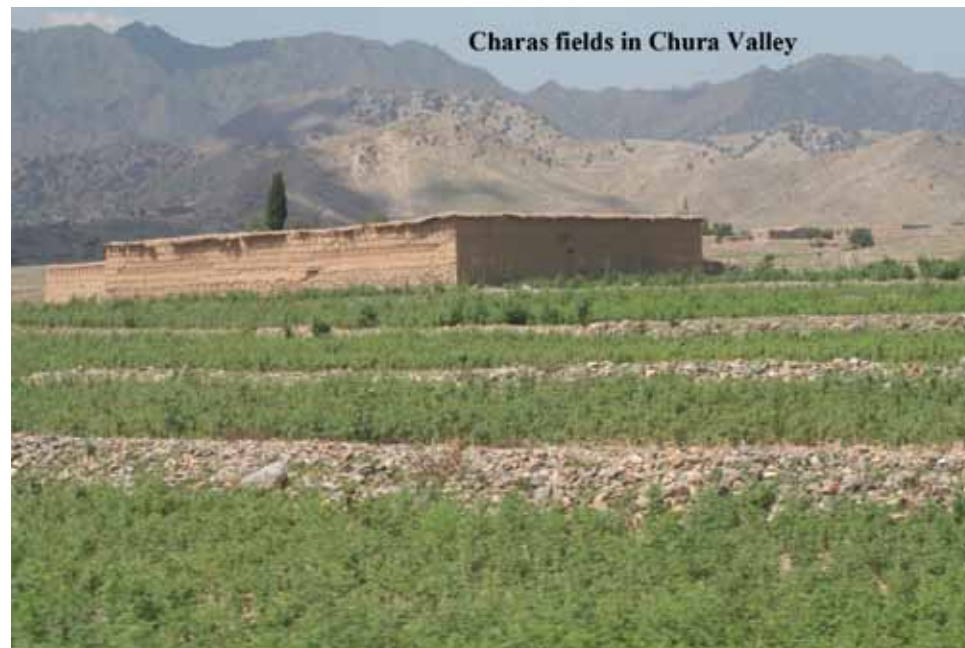
Cultures across the globe have variation in acceptance as far as the sense of pleasure is concerned. Aryans to which the Afridi belong have an inherent tradition of intoxication by drinking samoa as mentioned in RigVeda. With the passage of history, the taboos and encouragement were highlighted and enforced by the religious edicts. Alcohol consumption is a religious crime in Islam but it is acceptable in Christianity , tobacco is



specifically banned in Sikhism but it is acceptable in Islamic traditions. Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency is world famous for the quality of hashish crop it produces; over a period of time this has become a focal point of entire world to eradicate the menace. Hashish is mentioned in the oldest of the religious hymns of Aryans and it was in 11th century AD when the Hassan bin Sabah and his fedayeen made the hashish a historical entity. Hassan bin Sabbah in modern terms can be termed as Osama Bin Laden of that era, he created an air of terror among the states of the world, his ploy was to assassinate the ruler or the key person through the fedayeen, {one who had faith in him} these fedayeen used dagger as the main weapon. It was Halagu Khan who stormed the fort of Hasan bin Sabah in Iran and after a heavy fighting reduced it to rubbles. The modern word Assassin is derived from that period, it means 'one who takes hashish'. Hasan and his fedayeen were the users of hashish and fedayeen especially before the assignment would intoxicate themselves with hashish. There is too much of a historical resemblance of past and present; even now the Taliban are using such tactics for suicide attacks. The crop of cannabis is cultivated in Tirah, Chura Valleys, the land holding of tribe is already scarce thus this is the main crop, in the beginning the male and female seeds are planted and later the male plants are weeded out, by end summer the crop is ready and harvested, later it is left in open in stacks to have the snowfall, thus moisture in the crop, but it is with experience that one learns how much duration and how much snow it should have before it is again dried and then the dry fall out which is known as garda or raw charas. Opium is taken from a different plant and flower with a different method. During the British era and also much later till 1977, a person in Pakistan was allowed to have a certain quantity of opium, as it is used and is a remedy of almost all kinds of pain. Khyber Agency was termed as part of 'Golden Crescent' along with Iran and Turkey as the main production areas of hashish production. In Khyber, in every village especially in Tirah all that is sowed and harvested is nothing but hashish; with one odd vegetable garden in between. Families work in field, women and children take care of the crop from grazing cattle and goats.

Thus within the Afridi tribal customs, smoking hashish is not a social taboo, neither dealing in it have any social drawback; it is only smoking in excess which is looked down, in any case, the smoking is very rare in tribal areas in any form.

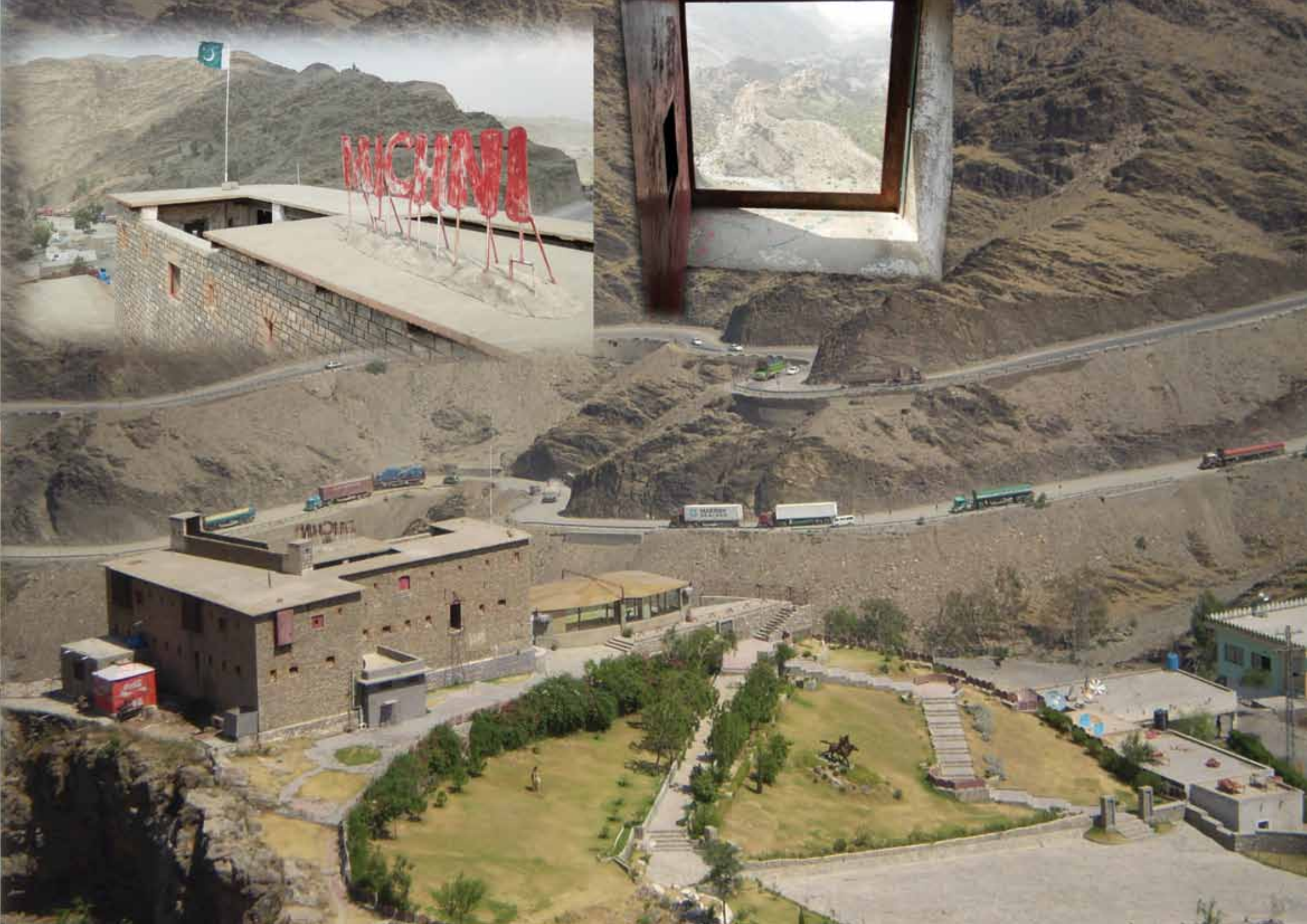
In 1985, Khyber Rifles was ordered to carry out the operation for the destruction of narcotics factories in the agency. Khyber Agency was infested with such factories and huge amount of drugs were being smuggled outside the country, even inside country number of addicted men were on a rise. To save humanity and specially our own kith and kin from this detestable and dangerous narcotic drug, it was imperative





Michni Piquet





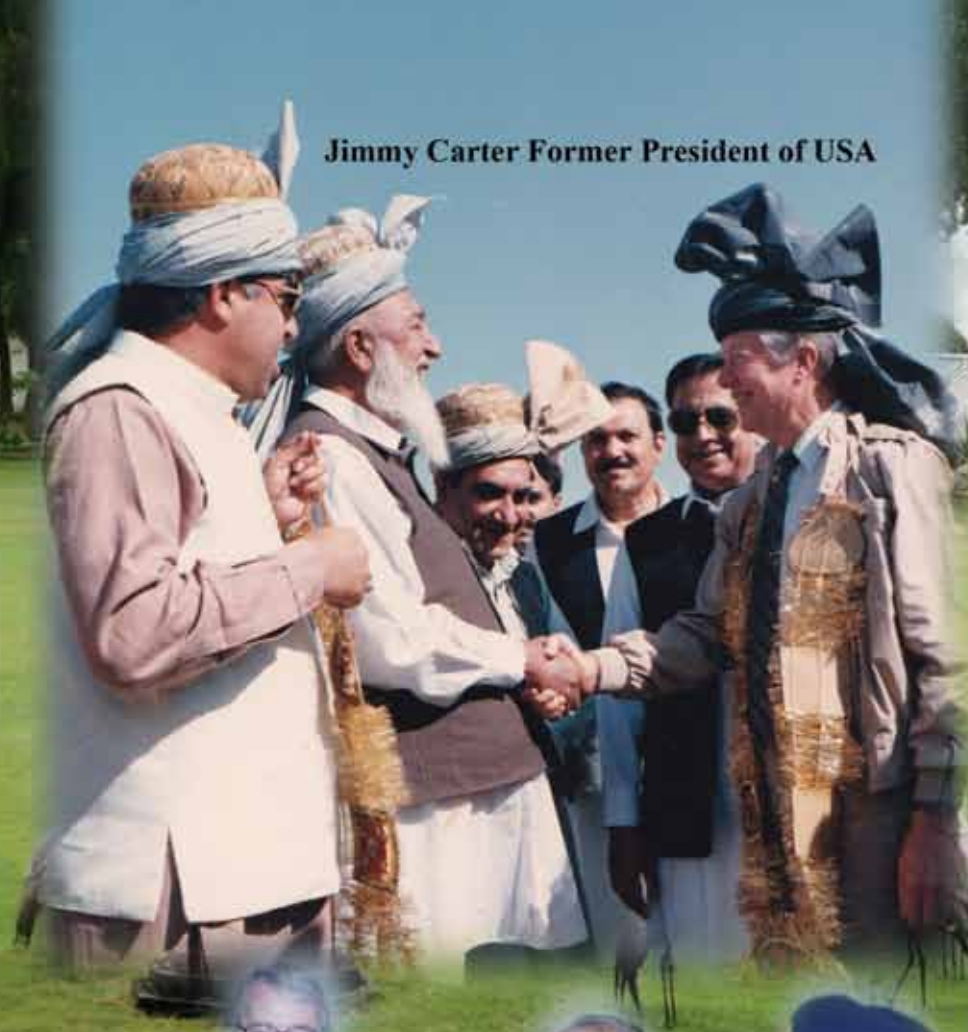


TO KHYBER RIFLES
WITH ADMIRATION

Gen. Riccardo Bisogniero
GEN. RICCARDO BISOGNIERO
CHIEF OF ITALIAN DEF STAFF
09 OCT 2002



*A wonderful visit
to the Khyber Rifles
The Guardians of the
Pass.
King Gordon
GREEN
CHIEF OF STAFF
October 2011*



Jimmy Carter Former President of USA



John Major Former Prime Minister of UK



Nixon Former President USA



*Best wishes to
the officers and
men of the
Khyber Rifles
17.2.1995
S. Demirel*

SULEMAN DEMIREL
PRESIDENT OF TURKEY
17.3.1995



To Colonel Iqbal Khattak
with best wishes
Margaret Thatcher



to get rid of the sources of production. A comprehensive operation was launched by Khyber Rifles under Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob Ali Shah, the Commandant of Khyber Rifles. It was difficult in the sense that Khyber Rifles had to take action against their own people but there was no hesitation at all on the part of the men. The action was sudden, thorough and well planned. During the operation, forty laboratories were destroyed and person involved in this business hauled up.

This operation naturally had pinched some of the notables of the area. They were accruing colossal amount of money from the sale produce of narcotics. In order to retaliate, some anti-state elements defected to Afghanistan. The Afghan Government welcomed them and issued them with Russian arms and equipment to create law and order situation in the Agency. In August the Government again entrusted this, onerous duties to the Frontier Corps. Khyber Rifles being in the fore front. The operation was meticulously carried out for twelve days in difficult terrain. Thirty nine, anti-state elements were apprehended and two hostiles were killed. The insurgency was crushed and law and order restored. The Agency was once again normal.

On the successful conclusion of the mission the Governor of the North Western Province commended the services of Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob Ali Shah and Major Saeed Ahmed Siddiqui. Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob Ali Shah was decorated with Tamgha-I-Basalat.

Presently the narcotics factories are almost finished yet the basic crop is still harvested, with charas being smuggled down to the country and to foreign lands. Government has tried and initiated many steps to encourage the natives to adopt any other form of agriculture through subsidy, the hard fact is that nothing can even remotely match the economics power of charas crop. On an idealistic point, the tribes do have a point that if the crop itself has been legalised by the western powers as in USA, where many states have done so, than why cannot these tribes be allowed to do so, after all the very action was initiated on the insistence of these very powers on the basis of it being a menace to human development. Whatever is the case smoking or possession of any form of hashish by any one in Khyber Rifles is an offence, punishment and disposal is the prerogative of commandant. Legally in army, from 1988 Drug Abuse policy is enforced, under which any soldier or officer found intoxicated will be handled under such policy, which gives six month of treatment to drug abuser and if found guilty is remove from service. Khyber Rifles being under ministry of interior as such have different policy.



Chapter IV

Khyber Rifles & War Against Militancy-2001-2015

Situation in Khyber Pass remained relatively calm and peaceful even after 9/11 incident, despite the fact that the very first wave of former mujahedeen along with Taliban took refuge in Tora Bora and Tirah Valley. In the post 9/11, Islamabad and Kabul attained strategic position in international affairs; similarly Peshawar again reverted to its millenniums old character. It became one of the most sensitive city in the world along with Kabul; their falling into the hands of Taliban would have been the transition of civilisation in a violent pattern. Peshawar's safety or for that matter the safety of Pakistan lies in Khyber Pass with Khyber Rifles as the very first guardian.

Afridi tribe is the uncrowned king of Khyber Pass, centuries of wisdom, experience, expeditions, trade, diplomacy, and negotiations with varying nations have given them a unique blend of idealism and realism. They are rational in approach, liberal in religion and positivist in outlook; they did not like the ideology of Osama bin Laden⁷⁷ who had developed more roots among the Wazirs than Afridi tribe. Afridi tribe collectively controls the Peshawar Bowl, the three main historical entry points, Khyber Pass, Tirah and Dara Adam Khel. Afridis not only control the Khyber Pass but possession of Dara Adam Khel also gives them control of Peshawar - Kohat - Bannu highway. Afridi Ridge which ascends westward from Kohat to Tirah also bifurcates the Kurram Valley & Kabul River {Peshawar Vale} with Tirah acting as the nodal point allowing movement between the Khyber-Orakzai-Kurram agencies or in other words among Peshawar - Kabul - Kurram - onwards to Waziristan⁷⁸. In this background role of Khyber Rifles and Political Agent became paramount and vital to counter the menace of militancy, and



Map of Federally Administrative Tribal Area (FATA)

77 Head hunter who picked the traces of Osama Bin Laden is none other than an Afridi {Dr Ayub Afridi}.

78 Waziristan was the term used by British to denote the area between Safeed Koh – Koh Suleiman, 1895 *Constable Handbook of India*.



155 mm Howitzer were inducted in Khyber Rifles Field Artillery



Armour was placed under command Khyber Rifles for operations



both these components were able to correctly assess the situation well in time and did not allow the heat to become unbearable.

Geographically, Khyber Agency is naturally bifurcated into three distinct slices, the eastern half i.e. area, east of Khyber Pass – Kabul river is occupied by Shilman and Mullagori tribes both numerically inferior, Shinwari another minor tribe have clans living on the west of Khyber Pass, this area is small and remained peaceful. The area, west of Khyber Pass- eastern bank of River Bara is occupied by Kuki Khel, Malik Din Khel and Zakkha Khel tribes, the area between the western bank – Darra Adam Khel have Sipah, Qambar Khel, Aka Khel, Kamar Khel and Adam Khel, each clan have further sub clans, all these clans have one common ground, the high plateau of Tirah, from which River Bara takes origin. It is a classical military manoeuvres narrative with inter state boundary between the mid of River Bara among the eastern and western clans. They seldom have cordial relationship among each other, but definitely puts up a joint face to an outsider. Tirah was never camped by military after the 1897 campaign, thus a myth of invincibility, folklore shrouded the area.

The incoming Afghan Taliban, naturally diverted to one of the banks of River Bara, but by and large they were not encouraged by the local clans to carry out any activity against the state. Mangal Bagh and few other religious organisations ‘Tanzeems’, took birth in the aftermath of the 9/11; mostly they had a soft stance for the Taliban and other refugees, yet they were not in favour of any violence to impose the Islamic Shariah. Mangal Bagh had his base on the western bank of River Bara and at Bara town itself, thus the few punitive actions were undertaken by Mahsud Scouts located at Fort Salop, Khyber Rifles had one of its wing deployed in support of Mahsud Scouts at Bara. Thus till 2009, situation remained peaceful and under control in Khyber Agency. With Pakistan Army operations in South and North Waziristan, the movement of insurgents started increasing across the Khyber Agency and this is how the operation against them started, which with passage of time, in 2012-2015 reached their high point in terms of troops and firepower. The campaign have its tribal shade as well, primarily, clans of Afridi seldom gets united under any non Afridi leader and with in the Afridi Tribe, the clans living astride Khyber Pass consider themselves at high pedestal than the clans occupying the western bank. The feud between the Zakkha Khel and Sipah is rooted in this inter tribal jealousy and ego.



Khyber Rifles Sepoy at Tirah



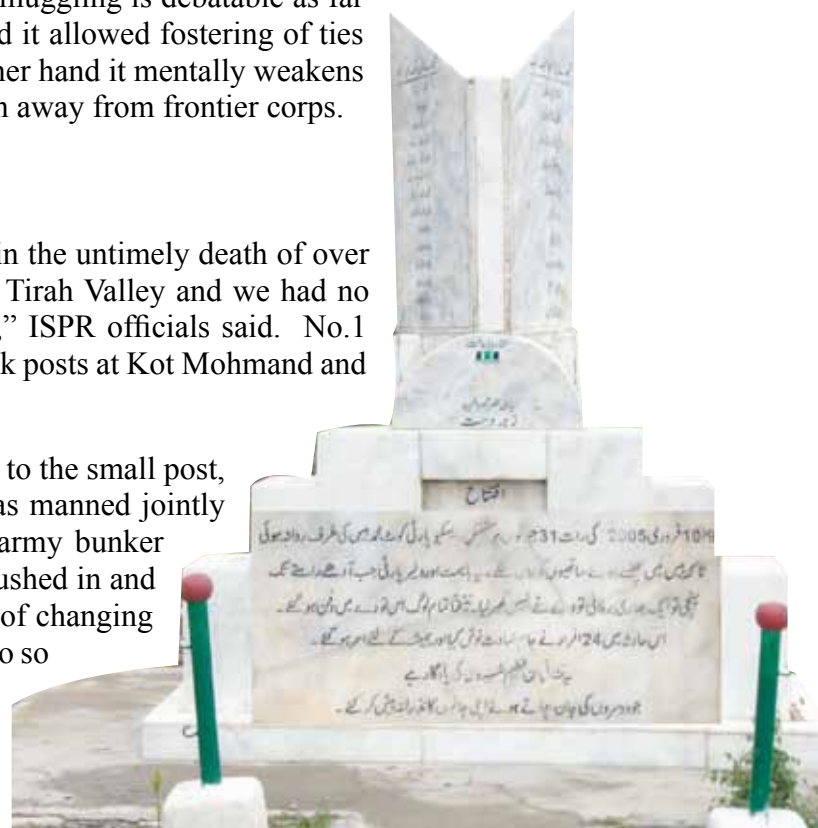
Operation Al Mizan, 2001-2009

Tirah Valley being shared by Khyber, Orakzai and Kurram Agencies had multidimensional impacts in other Political Agencies and settled areas. After 9/11, the hazards of miscreants and nefarious elements flowing into Pakistan increased which necessitated proper occupation of international border. For the first time in December 2001, after 9/11, a brigade size force comprising 1 x wing each of Khyber Rifles & Swat Scouts and 7 Punjab Regiment along with 101 Engineers Battalion moved into the valley and occupied international border. Khyber Khassadar Force played a key role, as a matter of fact they acted as guide and interacted with the local population. The deployment was completed without firing even a single shot. Army Aviation's transport helicopters, mules and vehicles were used for deploying troops at different locations with heights ranging from 4000 – 14000 feet. Later more troops from Khyber Rifles moved in the area. Khyber Rifles was task to monitor the border, ensure safety of line of communication, monitor the movement, and to carry out anti-smuggling duties. This concept of smuggling is debatable as far as the tribes are concerned and this role had its pros & cons as well, on one hand it allowed fostering of ties with smugglers which in turn became a source of intelligence gathering on the other hand it mentally weakens the all-important battle against the militancy; finally in 2005 the duties were taken away from frontier corps.

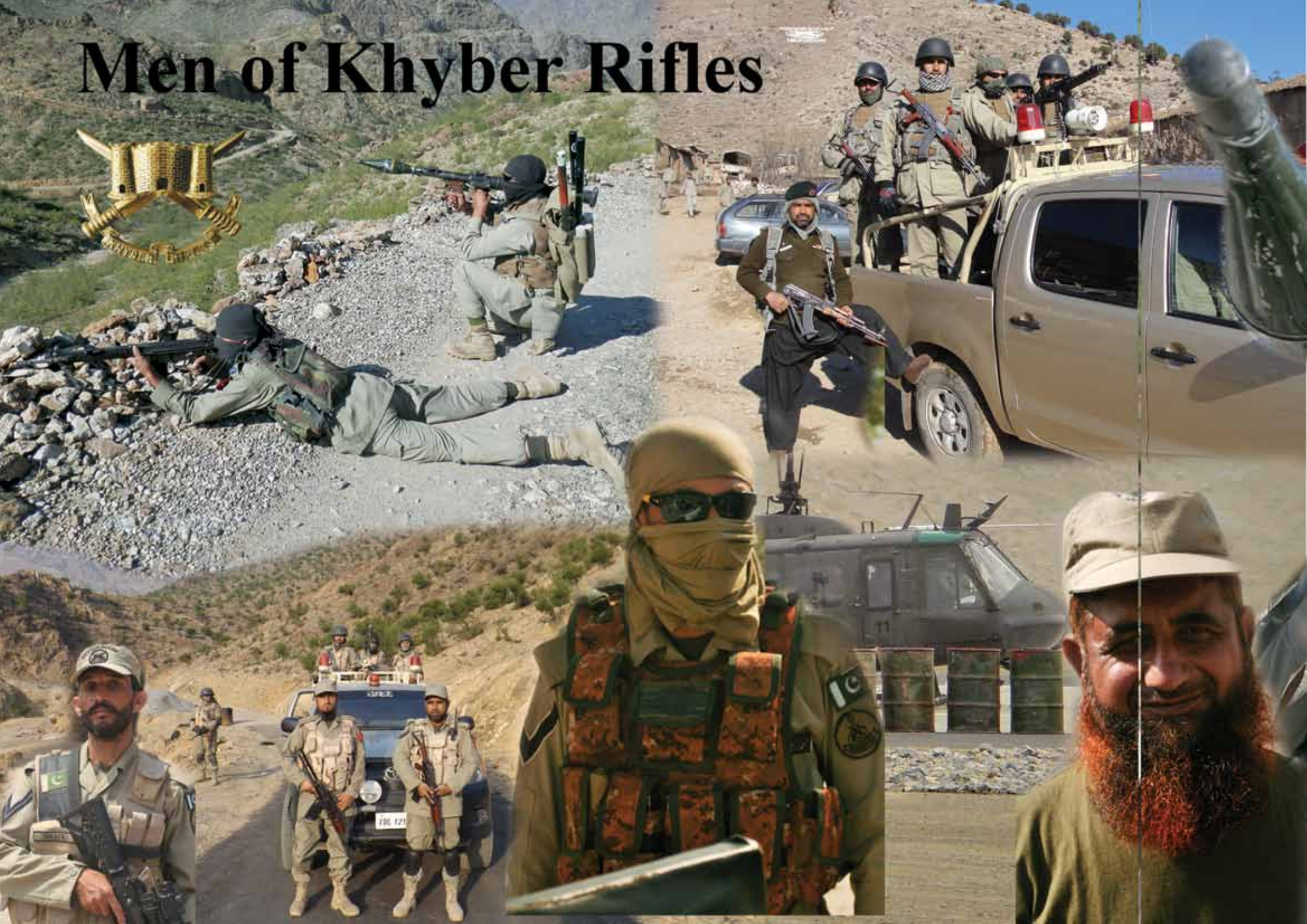
Tragedy at Tirah

In the first week of February 2002, unprecedented cold weather resulted in the untimely death of over thirty soldiers from army and Khyber Rifles. “Our 32 troops are missing in the Tirah Valley and we had no contact with them since they were reportedly hit by an avalanche on Thursday,” ISPR officials said. No.1 Wing, Khyber Rifles and 64 Frontier Force Regiment were manning the high check posts at Kot Mohmand and Kachkol, both located at an altitude of over 12000 feet.

At Kot Mohmand, which was the name given by the Khyber Rifles troops to the small post, because, on the other side the name of Afghan village is the same. The post was manned jointly by Khyber Rifles and army troops, both living in separate bunker. It was the army bunker which first was hit by the snow and it caved in, the troops of Khyber Rifles just rushed in and evacuated the army troops. Now, the Khyber Rifles detachment floated the idea of changing the position of the post due to the snow hazard, but army troops were reluctant to do so without any prior higher approval, in the meantime the second wave of avalanche came down and it tilted the decision in favour of Khyber Rifles suggestion. The avalanche had buried all the provision of army troops and Khyber Rifles also lost their ration, as their bunker also caved in. The troops now, changed their location



Men of Khyber Rifles







and also informed the Kachkol on land line about the situation. Tirah received over 12 feet of snow in three weeks prior to incident. A rescue party of 32 sepoy, 13 from army and 19 from Khyber Rifles, while attempting a rescue under snow, themselves came under an avalanche. Sepoy Omar Khitab Bangash was the only sepoy left at Kachkol, and it was he, who later broke the news to the authorities at Jarobi.

Zara Mela- Ides Of March

Zara Mela is a small village in North Waziristan, lying few kilometres north east of Mirali town. In 2005 after Frontier Corps was placed under operational control of Pakistan Army, the operation started in North Waziristan Agency thus corps and wings were deployed, Khyber Rifles one wing was placed under command Thall Scouts. In March 2006, the change of command was to take place under which Commandant Thall Scouts who was acting as the sector commander to be replaced by Commandant Khyber Rifles; a routine procedure in which command to be circulated . Colonel Qaiser the commandant at that time narrates

‘We started off from Khyber Rifles Landi Kotal, early in morning , a convoy of two vehicles, one acting as commandant escort, after a brief pause at Peshawar we set course for Thall , reaching there at around mid day, we consumed our lunch at a roadside, in order to save time. Before setting off from Landi Kotal, I had made co-ordination with Colonel Tariq, commandant of Thall Scouts, his two vehicles to rendezvous with us , and lead to Mirali. For some reasons our marrying up got late, we stopped briefly at Zara Mela check post which was being manned by my own troops.

Few hundred meters ahead of the post, the road takes an ascending bend with two small hillocks on each side, a small pass or a saddle. Our convoy now comprised of three vehicles, our speed naturally reduced due to uphill and at that precise moment the bursts of fire hit almost all vehicles simultaneously, mine was second in number, instantaneously we replied back and sped forward, in the rear view mirror, I saw the last vehicle getting overturned . I stopped the vehicle, the forward vehicle had gone further ahead and became non visible, myself and other four soldiers now started walking towards the disabled vehicle, meanwhile, a group of about twenty odd young boys appeared from nowhere and stared walking towards us, they were





all unarmed and showing sympathy to us, offering help, but it was another ruse of the miscreants in which they had use similar tactics in past, thus , we opened an aerial burst and ordered the crowd to vanish. In the meanwhile, three soldiers of mine had managed to get out of the vehicle while other two were still trapped inside, I along with two other soldiers move forward leaving one driver with the vehicle in order to ward off the boys. When we reached the site, I ordered an all-around defence, helping the injured soldiers out of vehicle, luckily the vehicle was still functional thus everything seems to be in control’.

Lance Naik Mumtaz Khan Shilman was among those who were deployed while other were putting the vehicle back on road, he noticed something in the ravine and fired, quickly he got a reply in the form of a burst, his suspicion proved correct; miscreants were hiding in the ravine. ‘I saw him charging , yelling abuses Taliban , Taliban, I shouted him to stop and come back but probably he did not heard me , thus I also ran after him, my signaller and bodyguard also ran with me and we now were almost hundred yards ahead of our original position, taking cover behind a boulder, Mumtaz showed me the likely position of the Taliban. Meanwhile, one platoon of mine also arrived from Mirali under command Captain Osama, also a company of Thall Scouts under command Colonel Tariq along with one armoured car reached the spot. It was getting dark, we decided to have two roadblocks in order to trap the Taliban, in the process Colonel Tariq was hit with a bullet which kissed his neck, he was later evacuated along with other injured soldiers’.

For another an hour the firing duel continued, the Militia now got concentrated at the same place from where they have advanced, it was revealed that own soldiers are missing in action, thus commandant Khyber Rifles and an escort searched the area and found own two soldiers dead and other two being injured, as these were being brought back to safety, they came under fire from own troops, such is fog of war. At 2230 hours the whole force arrived at Mirali where Lieutenant Colonel Bilal of Tochi Scouts was holding the fort. News of ambush was already on air, Taliban were also playing the propaganda warfare on their Makhawara sets. Later artillery fire was brought on the suspected positions, Colonel Qaiser also communicated on wireless to dispel the rumours that two commandants have been killed by Taliban. Later through intelligence, it was confirmed that Taliban suffered no less than 31 fatal casualties. Subedar Yaqut Khan Orakzai, Sepoy Amin Hussain Orakzai, Sepoy Abdul Khan Khattak, Lance Naik Mumtaz Khan Shilman and Sepoy Sher Jan Wazir embraced shahadat on the spot where as Naik Anwarullah Wazir was injured and he took his last breath on 5th March 2006.

A week later Taliban struck again at Hassu Khel Bridge check post, a combined force of militia under command Captain Yahya of Tochi Scouts was attacked and very few of own troops survived the night attack, Sepoy Anwar Khan Afridi was among those who lost their lives.



Improvised Explosive Device



Recruits of Khyber Rifles - Training





Recruits Passing Out





Chasmai Bridge is on River Tochi, near Miranshah. In 2006, the convoys of army and militia were being targeted with IEDs, on 10th January 2006 one such convoy was hit with an IED, resultantly over fifteen soldiers lost lives including six from Khyber Rifles. In June 2007 three soldiers of Khyber Rifles embraced shahadat at Mirali cause was the IED planted on roadside.

Wings of Khyber Rifles, remained committed in the area of operation, **No.1 Wing**, at the beginning of the war, had a platoon at Gilgit, a company at Tirah and one company at Bahawalnagr in the southern desert, thus, it was deployed in pockets from Gilgit - Bahawalnagr. It was in May 2003, that whole wing was deployed at Char Bagh, from May 2003-May 2004, and then it moved to Tirah as a complete wing and remained deployed for a year. From Tirah, the wing move to Mir Ali in North Waziristan Agency and remained deployed for over a year, {September 2005- August 2006}. After, a year, the wing again regrouped and was deployed as a complete wing, in August 2007, it was back at Char Bagh and Shilman. In between, its one company remained deployed at Mir Ali {August 2006-August 2007} another company was deployed at Thall and Orakzai and two companies and headquarters were established at Bara. Between February 2007 - August 2007, the wing headquarters was at Bara where as its companies were deployed on rotation at Bajaur, Parachinar and Tank. This is counterproductive in every sense, as the command and control becomes very loose, army regiments, seldom undergo such kind of dispersion for such a long duration. There was no respite for the wings. In June 2012, the complete wing move to Bajaur for a year less one company which remained deployed at Tirah and finally in February 2013, the wing was deployed at Pinda China⁷⁹.

Similarly, **No.2 Wing**, took part in Operation Al Mizan in 2001 {Tirah Valley}, in, 2009, it took part in North Waziristan Agency at Mirali, simultaneously, from Mirali, it move to Dara Adam Khel and actively participated in operations at Dara Adam Khel. It also took part in Operation Tor Tandar in Buner area {2009}, moving back to own area, wing took the lead part in Operations Bia Dar Alam and Khawakh Bade Sham in Bara {2009}. In 2012, it was in forefront of Operation Karamina in Khyber Agency. No.3, 4 and 5 Wings have similar pattern of deployment. **No.3 Wing** remained at Bara in 2012, actively taking part in operations. Defence against miscreants attack, establishing check posts, cordon and search operations are part of



Reconnaissance by Commandant and Wing Commander Khyber Rifles

⁷⁹ No.1 Wing, Khyber Rifles, Digest of Service.



everyday life. This wing, after Bara, move to Landi Kotal in January 2013. **No. 4 Wing** was raised in 1976, it has the distinction of opening the four years old 'road block' of Bara on 3rd August 2013, like other wings, it has also served in North Waziristan Agency, Kurram, Bajaur and Buner areas. **No.5 Wing** was also an integral part of Operation Al Mizan, 2003-2004 Tirah, where it was deployed between Jarobi-Kachkol, and at Mir Ali, 2005-2007, deployed at Khajauri and Miranshah, Operation Sherdil at Bajaur in August 2008 – May 2012, now it is at Char Bagh.

In December 2007, forces less 4Wing of Khyber Rifles left the valley, thus the first phase of operations in the Tirah came to an end. It was in 2013, again an operation was launched in Tirah valley and finally in June 2015 the Army declared operation as success and it was operationally ceased. In the first phase which lasted from 2001-2007, there were 66 shaheeds and 144 injured from the army including Khyber Rifles.

The focus of militancy quickly shifted away from the Tirah and other crossing points along border into the political agencies, which by virtue of old historic ties became sanctuaries. Initially there was no such sanctuary in Khyber Agency, Afridi tribe as a whole remained adhered to their millenniums old heritage of, looking after their own interest first and anything else comes second. As compared to other tribes, Afridi Tribe by now and even in past are more liberal in outlook, in Islamic interpretation and flexibility in dealing with others, history and geography has made them more educated as compare to any other tribe . Even during the heydays of Taliban in Afghanistan 1992-2000; drugs, liquor, pornography, fake currency, every evil less prostitution was flourishing in the Jamrud and Landi Kotal or in other words it was the Afridi tribe area. The biggest small arms market was and still is in Bara, with over 7000 shops just selling hashish, and weapons. There was no place on this planet which could match this aspect of Khyber and Afridis, to have the best craftsmanship in making copies of any small arms weapon and by nature cultivating the best quality of Hashish in Tirah Valley. Tribal traditions remained intact, it was the only spot in Pakistan where one could see a Sikh women selling bangles with half a dosen men and women sitting around, all belonging to different races and nations. Religious tolerance is high in tribal areas, especially towards the Hindus and Sikhs but it is at highest in Khyber Agency. All this is due to the millenniums of history, more people have crossed this Pass than any other pass in Hindukush and Himalaya, thus the wisdom of



Khyber Rifles Jawans 'Bomb Disposal Party'



these millennium is visible through the political conduct of Afridi Tribe; the tribe itself does not have any central authoritative figure, yet small clans do acknowledge authority of their own clan member, by virtue of money, power, and adherence to traditions. Khyber is not wholly populated by Afridi tribe, it have Shinwari, Shilman and Mullagori too, thus no single tribe can call the shots in the Khyber Agency.

As the events reveal, the insurgency in last fifteen years have yet to influence the minds of Afridi Tribe, they have fought with the Khyber Rifles and with army against their own clan, they have formed Aman Lashkar {peace tribal army} to rout out the rebel factions.

Operation Sirate-E-Mustaqeem- 2008

After the initial operation at Tirah, which was mainly to verify and check the Taliban movement from Afghanistan, the focus of insurgency shifted away from Khyber Agency. There were no strong Taliban strongholds as in other agencies; however a new phenomenon in the shape of Mangal Bagh emerged on screen, a bus conductor by profession, he was preaching his style of Islam in the Khyber Agency, mainly at Bara, through FM radio. It was on 21st June 2008, that few women and Christians were abducted from Peshawar and Hayatabad area. The first Operation Sirat-E-Mustaqeem was thus launched on 28th June and was terminated on 9th July 2008. Troops were employed from Takhta Baig to Landikotal and curfew was imposed to avoid casualties to the civilians and restrict movement of militants from their hideouts. It was a minor operation with partial success, its effect were more psychological in nature than in confiscated weapons or narcotics. Only half a kilogram of heroin and three kilogram of hashish along with couple of semi-automatic weapons were confiscated. Wing each from Khyber Rifles, Mahsud Scouts, Chitral Scouts and Tochi Scouts took part. Mufti Munir a leading propagandist of Taliban, his house and Mehboob Madrassah was demolished, fourteen miscreants were killed, 130 were apprehended and only three surrendered.⁸⁰



Khyber Rifles Jawan

⁸⁰ Figures are from official briefing of Frontier Corps.



Eagle Swoop, September 2008

In 2008, the Dara Adam Khel in Kohat and Khyber Agency was subject to army operations to flush out the non-desirable elements, Eagle Swoop I, was launched on 25th January 2008, Khyber Rifles was not part of the force. The sequel to first operation was carried out in September in which No.2 Wing Khyber Rifles along with a wing each from Mahsud Scouts, Swat Scouts and seven infantry companies supported by artillery conducted the operation. It was based upon intelligence information, in which a large number of foreigners were reported in the area. At the end, 205 miscreants were killed, 140 were injured, 390 were apprehended apart from 213 foreigners which included 37 Tajik, 18 from Uzbekistan and remaining from Afghanistan.

Daralam- December, 2008

It was a minor operation as compare to the other operations going on in other agencies. Two companies of Khyber Rifles supported by a company each from Mahsud Scouts and Swat scouts, a company of special operations group {SOG}, tank squadron ex 21 Horse and 3 Sind Regiment took part. Aim, was to secure a safe route for the NATO logistics, to establish the writ of the state on the Torkham – Jamrud Road. In the end, it was able to achieve all the aims. Five soldiers embraced shahadat and fifteen were wounded.

Bia Daralam- August 2009

Mangal Bagh and Tehreek Taliban Pakistan {TTP} naturally got together being the bird of same flock, and agreed to fight together against law enforcing agencies. They established training centres at Zao and Okrakzai.

On 1st September 2009, major operation ‘Bia Daralam’ was launched in which two infantry battalions {45 Baluch, 4 Frontier Force}, cobra gunships, artillery and No.2 Wing Khyber Rifles, company each from Mahsud Scouts and Swat Scouts took part. Search & sting operations were launched, targets were identified with the help of the local sources. A thorough cleaning of the area was carried out in which, 149 miscreants were killed and 243 were apprehended. Miscreants markaz at Aka Khel, Bara, Shalobar, Saifoor and at Kohi were demolished. On 8th September, the two



Khyber Rifles field artillery in action



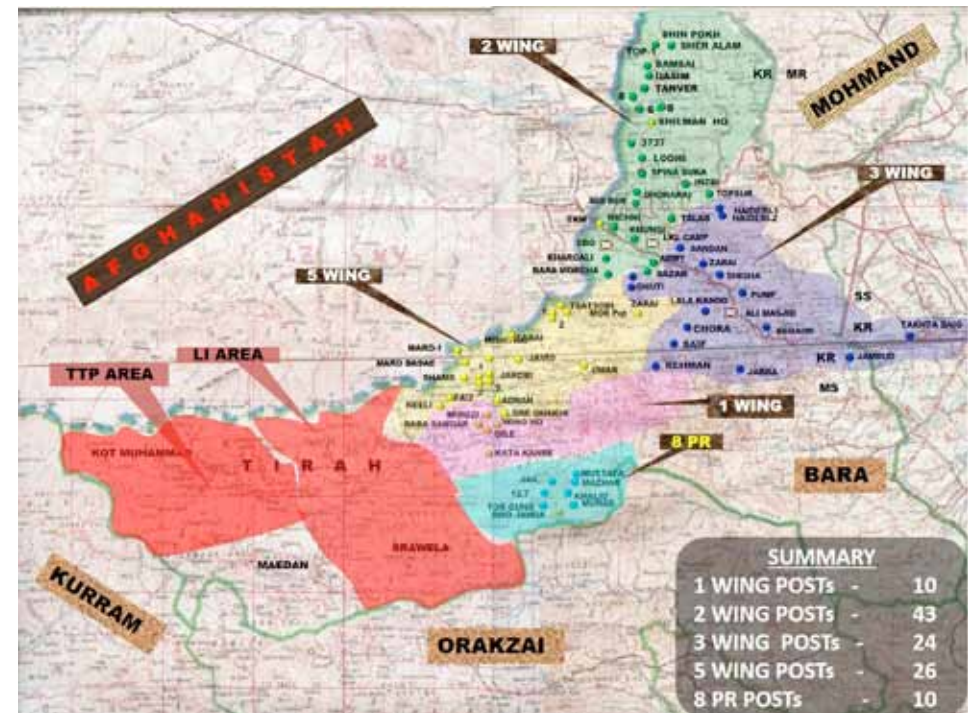
army units were pulled out after having achieved the effect and Khyber Rifles along with a wing of Mahsud Scouts were left to enforce the road block and checking. It was a high intensity operation, in which the old pattern of frontier warfare was repeated thereby 142 houses, 15 training centres were demolished, own casualties were five soldiers embraced shahadat and 32 were wounded; all protection was provided to the civilian population. It was not an operation against any one particular clan or tribe but against the elements which were defying the writ of the state in the agency.

Khawak Ba De Sham 24th November 2009

Sequel to conduct of successful operations by Frontier Corps in Bajaur, Mohmand and South Waziristan Agency (under command army); militants were uprooted from these areas. They were forced to restrict their activities in few areas where they were trying to re-establish themselves for continuation of their nefarious agenda. South Eastern part of Khyber Agency and Orakzai Agency were few such places providing safe havens to the miscreants. Being in close vicinity and availability of routes, the miscreants were carrying out their activities in Peshawar and Kohat. They also tried to create law and order situation in Kurram Agency in consonance with warring Shia and Sunni elements in these areas. Kidnapping for ransom became a routine practice. The road Thall – Parachinar was completely closed and heavy escorts were required for movement of LEAs convoys. Owing to the deteriorated situation, Operation Khawak Ba De Sham was launched in Khyber, Kurram and Orakzai Agencies.

In November, 2Wing of Mahsud Scouts and 1Wing of Khyber Rifles took part in the above name operation which was conducted in the valley to apprehend the miscreants behind recent surge of violence. Fire support was provided from Fort Salop in the form of 130mm and 25 pounder artillery fire. 9 NLI and 40 FF were the two infantry regiments who spearheaded the operation.

During the operation houses were searched and sting operations carried out almost on daily basis. Last major operation was conducted on 28th and 29th December 2009, ten people were held in custody, 100 kilogram of hashish was confiscated, Lewana who was the commander of miscreants was killed in a shootout on 29th in area Yousaf Talao.



Khyber Rifles Deployment 2009-2010



Operation Karamina - 31st December 2011

As the last sun of 2011 was setting down, skyline was enchanting and mesmerising with the colours changing after every few minutes, mountains were silent and probably having a thought about the year passing by just like all the military commanders across the Pakistan – Afghanistan frontier. Miscreants were on the run yet retaining their ability to strike terror through suicide bombers; which are almost impossible to counter as all our military thinking relies upon rational actions and blowing oneself is beyond the realm of rationale. With the passage of time, it was understood that best and most effective mean to counter this menace lies in intelligence and in cracking down the hatcheries. Experience had taught the Khyber Rifles men to detect the trouble before hand; they became masters in face reading. A blue vehicle was stopped at the Lala Kandao check post {No.4 Wing's post}, post commander instantly realised that something is wrong with this vehicle and in the end a suspected man was apprehended among the five passengers sitting in the vehicle. He was possessing hand grenades as well apart from items which are used in making an IED. Suspect was taken to the headquarters where he opened up and revealed that important heads of local Taliban are present at Karamina Markaz and he himself was going towards Akora Khattak where he intended to blow himself at the police station.



Durbar in the field

Commandant Khyber Rifles, Colonel Fayyaz Mughul, received this information at his residence, not far from the room where interrogation was taking place, he further carried out interrogation and came to conclusion that information was worth carrying an operation or a Brampta. In another hour; he had formulated his plan, which was to storm the house by surprise, he entrusted Major Saifullah Shakir with the mission who was the battery commander of Khyber Rifles field battery. Secrecy being the cardinal point of the operation; therefore no reconnaissance was carried out on ground rather full use of quarter inch map and Google imageries was made. A company strength was considered sufficient. Quick Reaction Force of No. 2 Wing was placed at Umer Post, raid parties were made as an entity basing upon tribal composition with own tribe's non-commissioned officers and junior commissioned officers. Subedar Noor Abbas , Naib Subedar Mastan Akbar Orakzai, Naib Subedar Muhammad Nawaz, Subedar Alam Khel Afridi, Subedar Anwar Khan Bangash, Havildar Imran Ullah Mahsud and Havildar Rawal Khan Wazir ably assisted the commanders in the planning and later in execution phase. The strength of the Chigha Pary was 108 all ranks with men from all wings.



At 0250 hours , the last vehicle of the Khyber Rifles Chigha Party left the main gate , heading towards Karamina, they did not switched on the headlights, the very fact that they reached the intended site without any opposition paid the rare dividend of surprise in ‘an area where news propagates faster than the air currents’⁸¹. A school building about one kilometer short of the target was occupied and a headquarter along with fire base established. Weapons were sited at an adjoining high ground. Initially there was some confusion about the exact house to be raided which was mainly due to lack of ground reconnaissance. An outer cordon party immediately cordoned off the area and raiding parties, three in number started stalking towards the house, one party which was scaling the wall came under fire and from this point onwards the situation started becoming dangerous. Clausewitz had aired the philosophy that even the best laid plans can go wrong after the first shot has been fired because none can predict the outcome from this point onwards. Commandant on hearing this new development himself came at the spot, meanwhile the QRF was also called upon. The plan which had the secrecy around which it was evolved now had to be altered. Morning twilight came with a standstill situation, miscreants holding the house with Khyber Rifles troops cordoning the area.



Tanks were also placed under command Khyber Rifles

Commandant very wisely and as per the tradition called upon the elders of the area to carry out the negotiations which lasted till the midday, aim was to avoid the loss of human lives. Talibans do have the tactics and strategy of delaying any such encounter to the last light and to gain maximum time thus enabling their sympathisers to reach the trouble spot and moreover to get away from the law enforcing forces during hours of darkness; thus a mental chess game started between the Khyber Rifles and the rebels. Own aviation support was also called but it did not materialised, thus finally at about midday, commandant ordered his artillery, which now had 25 pounder and 3 inch Howitzers in support to raze the rebel strong hold. Major Saifullah was the battery commander as well, Subedar Alam Khel Afridi was at the guns. After the first volley of artillery shells, Taliban realising the fragility of their bunker, in a last attempt came out of the house making good use of the debris cover and assaulted towards the cordon party and more importantly towards the gun position which due to ground nature, were close and in direct role.

Lance Naik Abdur Rehman Afridi and Naik Amjad Ali were manning the gun position when two Taliban appeared suddenly and rushed towards

81 Commandant Khyber Rifles, Colonel Fayyaz Mughul's remarks.



the gun position. Abdur Rehman without any hesitation, aimed and opened fire at the assaulting men and both were killed; one of the attacker was a suicide bomber who blew himself thus taking the life of Lance Naik Abdur Rehman also. This act of Abdur Rehman⁸² is worth appreciating as he realised the threat to his gun and remaining crew and went ahead to shot the suicide bomber. Naik Amjad Ali was also wounded but the rest of crew and guns remained safe. Another last attempt assault was undertaken by the Taliban towards the commandant but here also the commandant and his escort shot them down, well away not to cause any human loss to friendly souls.



Khyber Rifles Soldiers on Top

At the end of this operation, fifteen miscreants were dead including four suicide bombers {Qari Kamran, Suleiman alias Abu Bakr, Qari Malang, Jabir, Umer Shah alias Hamza, Mula Jar were among the killed}, two more were apprehended in a limp state. Special Operations Group {SOG-IV} was also called in and they finally entered the house and cleared the house, ladies and children in the house were exonerated without any hurt⁸³.

2012- Maira Sar

Maira Sar is the highest peak in the area overlooking the Fort Salop and Shin Kamar Pass. The peak was under the control of miscreants,

⁸² Lance Naik Rehman Khattak was recommended for Tamgha Jurat.

⁸³ Operation Karamina, post operation report. Khyber Rifles.



an operation was launched to capture the peak. 23 Baluch and 35 Azad Kashmir Regiments, 2Wing, 3Wing of Mahsud Scouts, 3 Wing Khyber Rifles and two companies of Special Operation Group {SOG} were part of the force. Tactical headquarters was established at Shin Kamar. On 16th February 2012, aerial pounding was done in which Cobras and air force jets took part followed by artillery fire, a troop of tank was also placed at Shin Kamar. Another feature of this operation was the induction of village defence committee {VDC} which comprised of loyal tribes, these are mainly broken away factions who are good in holding their own area by virtue of their knowledge of the ground. On 17th, Maira Sar was captured, Sepoy Ahmed Shah of Mahsud Scouts embraced shahadat along with two other scouts belonging to SOG and four persons of ‘aman lashkar’ were injured. An IED blast in one of the 23 Baluch bunker on 18th took the lives of five soldiers.

Alam Guddar was another hot spot where an operation was conducted on 10th March, 39 miscreants were killed while three own soldiers including an officer of 17 Frontier Force {FF} embraced shahadat and ten other were injured including one from Mahsud Scouts. Houses of suspected miscreant commanders including Maulvi Faqir and Wazeer were demolished on 20th March 2012 and 125 suspects were arrested. Rasool Jan Markaz was cordoned in the early hours of 22nd April, by 2Wing {Mahsud Scouts}, 3Wing Khyber Rifles, 17 Frontier Force and 35 Azad Kashmir regiments in Aziz market area, markaz was demolished and five miscreants were killed. *Remote as it is, Tirah is no insignificant mountain hideout. On the one side it shares a border with Afghanistan. On the other it leads to the plains of Bara, which connect the agency to the outskirts of Peshawar. Khyber also links several agencies to each other, serving as a north-south route within Fata. So it has long been fought over by a mix of militant organisations, including the TTP, the Ansarul Islam and Mangal Bagh’s Lashkar-i-Islam. But given the mountainous terrain and remoteness of the area, the task of fending off militant occupation was outsourced to local tribal lashkars, supported by occasional aerial bombardments by the army.* On 12th June 2012, the Mangal Bagh’s Sipah were able to defeat the Kuki Khel tribe, and thus the last bit of Tirah slipped out of government’s control⁸⁴.



Troops of Khyber Rifles

84 www.dawn.com/news/725836/tirah-capture, dated 12 June 2012.



Operation Mirozai Sar⁸⁵, February 2013

Mirozai Sar is located on the western bank of River Bara at an elevation of 5640 feet, overlooking Muzaital Kadow on Pakistan – Afghanistan border. It has just one village Narai Baba in vicinity and it also keeps an eye on the sole vehicular route in the area which is the blood line of hashish trade. Other important villages in the surroundings include, Mangal Bagh, Nangrosa, Kadow and Bokar. Road leading from Kachkol Valley through Dwa Toi, Nangrosa, Mastak along Bara river to Bara and settled areas is also dominated by this sar. Mirozai Sar is an integral part of Tirah Valley and after Waziristan was the hub of miscreants who used the innumerable traditional routes to move across the frontier and border unchecked.

Khyber Agency which hitherto had remained free from the miscreants pestilence slowly and gradually went under their control, state's writ was restricted to the main road Peshawar- Torkham and few kilometers of border around Torkham; abduction, planting of IEDs, fire raids on NATO and own military convoys was increasing in number. Lashkar Islam{LI} headed by Mangal Bagh emerged as the main potent force challenging the writ of government; after his initial successes, Mangal Bagh almost became an icon and as such attracted the attention of main Taliban elements who now swarmed into area for protection, safe haven and to reinforce Mangal Bagh. Miscreants move with impunity in almost everywhere. Mangal Bagh threatened security forces convoys for Jarobi and Tirah, consequently supply through road ceased and troops were administered through helicopters⁸⁶.

Zakkha Khel a sub clan of Afridis was initially aligned with Mangal Bagh a Sipah Afridi. However, in early 2011, Maulana Hashim Khan of Zakkha Khel was murdered by the supporters of Mangal Bagh over which this uneasy alliance gave away and Zakkha Khel vowed to avenge the killing of their holy man. Political Agent and government cashed on this opportunity. No.4 Wing Khyber Rifles and men from Zakkha Khel tribe who were previously fighting alongwith Mangal Bagh now joined hands in flushing him out of the Bazaar Valley; by end April 2011 the valley was under control of Zakkha Khel tribe with Mangal Bagh holding onto the southern fringes of Bazaar, Bokar and Mastak valleys mainly along the River Bara. Zakkha Khel's village defence committees {VDC} were formed from the nucleus of their former



85 Sar in local language means, high ground/ridge.

86 War Diary, Khyber Rifles.



Taliban fighters, they numbered approximately 900-1000 out of which 150-200 could be termed as well trained.⁸⁷ These fighters were provided with free ration, ammunition and weapons by the political agent, thirty posts in Jarobi sector were being manned by these fighters along with No. 2 Wing Khyber Rifles having 25 more posts.

First attempt to clear Mirozai Sar was initiated on 13th January 2013, when Zakkha Khels were persuaded to capture the high ground with own troops providing fire support. Tanks, 120 mm mortars, 25 pounder guns and 3 inch Howitzers were in direct support; however the top remained with miscreants and even the second attempt on 7th February 2013 also fell short of victory. Lashkar Islam had converted the Mirozai Sar as their strong point, well prepared trenches and bunkers were dug to withstand heavy artillery shells and it had a strength of 80-100 miscreants. They had also planted IEDs all around like a mine field around a post.

Khyber Rifles had one wing in the Tirah Valley {No.2 Wing} and therefore additional forces were called upon which included an additional company of Khyber Rifles, two tanks, and air support was also made available. One 155mm Howitzer & one 25 pounder gun was placed at Mangal Bagh Kandao and two 25 pounder guns were placed at Dre Ghakhai Kandao. The first objective was to clear the assault route which due to heavy snowfall was unfit for any vehicular traffic. Bomb disposal parties played key and vital role in this aspect, they cleared over 54 IEDs.

In the first phase, air sorties were called upon between 0800-0815 hours, 9th February 2013, aviation support got late due to weather but later they pounded the hideouts with five 200 pounds bombs at Mirozai Sar, Katakanri and Deli Morcha. Artillery and armour also joined hands hitting the bunkers at Raghakhi and Kando Marozai. Deli Morcha is a high place close to Painda China, it was captured by Subedar Safeer Afridi of Khyber Rifles, he along with his platoon were the first troops to occupy the Painda China. The village itself and especially the Deli Morcha was a subject of inter clan dispute, between the Malang Haji and Ambrood Khan both cousins, both had killed over twenty men for a piece of land. After the capture of the Deli Morcha, which was a small Taliban post with a long ditch and a small cave room, a quilt placed on a charpoy. Own troops slept there, on next day, an army jawan, simply pulled the quilt and with it the IED exploded which was placed under the quilt, its mechanism was such that it operated when it is lifted thus releasing the pressure on the mechanism.

In a set piece battle while the aircraft were hitting the top, the Zakkha Khel fighters started climbing up the ridge from Mangal Bagh Kandao and Dre Ghakhi Kandao with Khyber Rifles troops following on their heels. Bomb disposal parties were also in the assault phase and after neutralisation of bunkers at top they cleared the area. A total of 40 IEDs were diffused. Stiff resistance came from Khazana Morcha but soon it was silenced. SOG, commandant escort, wing commander escort also followed the trail and by mid-day the Mirozai Top was in the hands of Khyber Rifles.

The effect of this operation was far reaching. Lashkar Islam markaz at Narai Baba became untenable and abandoned by miscreants, supply route through Muzatal Kandow was effectively choked by the Khyber Rifles and so was the route from Tirah to Bara along the Bara river. Above all it restored the morale of troops and that of Zakkha Khel tribe which was shattered due to two failed attempts against this feature.

⁸⁷ *War Diary*, Khyber Rifles.



Operation Khyber – 2013-2015

On 13th June 2015, Pakistan Army announced the completion of the Operation Khyber II, and with it the life has returned to normalcy. The operation was launched against the militants especially the Mangal Bagh and Taliban. Mangal Bagh in the initial days, 2001 onwards remained as a side show, a man initially thought and perceived to be incapable of carrying out any operation against the state, he was more of a local goon, spreading his idea of religion through the FM radio, compelling people to wear the dress and adopt other rituals according to what he considered as the true Islam. Mangal Bagh a Sipah Afridi, was mainly confined to the western or southern bank of River Bara, where his clan is based upon.

Khyber Agency occupies a special place in the history of Frontier Corps, due to its octopus configuration it generates residual effects in surrounding areas. If Khyber is peaceful then Peshawar also remains peaceful or vice versa. After the successful operations in Bajaur, Mohmand, Swat and lastly in Orakzai Agencies, the terrorists of all outfits took refuge in Kachkol & Tirah Valley; both afford good weather, water, food and good defensive natural hamlets. Tirah Maidan was initially held by the Ansar Ul Islam, which had a soft and friendly outlook towards the state and military, Ansar Ul Islam had a lashkar of their own and they were putting a stiff resistance to the incursion of the Taliban among them. The military assumption that this lashkar at its own can hold the Taliban was correct but to an extent. By end of 2012, the lashkar was routed and Kachkol valley along with Tirah Maidan was occupied by the Taliban. Zakkha Khel, the loyal tribe now had a second thought on their alliance, the key word among tribal allegiance is to bank upon the winner. Frontier Corps and army jointly carried out deliberations and in the end, Frontier Corps put forward three options to tackle the Taliban in Tirah. The options primarily varied in terms of ground approaches and on 28th March 2013, the plan was approved. This was the biggest military operation in Tirah since the 1897 campaign.



Commandant and Officers of Khyber Rifles 'Planning'

Frontier Corps Commandants Conference 2006



KHYBER RIFLES
OFFICERS MESS.

IGFC Major General (Lieutenant General) Farid Khan 2008



IGFC Major General Ghayur (Lieutenant General) and Lieutenant General
Rubbani Corps Commander





Governor KPK Lieutenant General (R) Orakzai and
IFGC Major General Khattak 2005



Pakistan, Afghanistan and USA Officers 2005
Lieutenant Colonel Khalil Dar (Major General)



Lt Col Khalil Dar
(Maj Gen)



Lt Col Hidayat (Lt Gen)

Brig Naseer Janjua
(Lt Gen)

Brig Rizwan
(Lt Gen)



Commandant Khyber Rifles Colonel Mansoor Janjua with the troops of Khyber Rifles and Punjab Regiment

Additional army units were called upon which included Punjab Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Riffat Ullah, two commando battalions, light commando battalion of Azad Kashmir Regiment under command Lieutenant Colonel Sajjad Hussain, Frontier Force Regiment, Northern Light Infantry and Khyber Rifles which had a company, a platoon of SOG and tribal volunteers of Zakkha Khel, overall command was with Commandant Khyber Rifles. Plan was to have the force crushed the miscreants in a two prong offensive; northern prong was relatively heavier than the southern prong {southern prong was under command army brigade}. Fundamentally one option was to clear the area by remaining within the limits of Khyber Agency, with frontier force, northern light infantry and commando battalion moving, clearing and securing the area from Bazar Valley, simultaneously through Chorah valley, Azad Kashmir regiment, commando battalion, Punjab regiment and Khyber Rifles moved down through Mastak, Jarobi. In the end the adopted plan revolved around flushing not only the Tirah in Khyber but adjoining Orakzai Agency also.



Ground reconnaissance was carried out between 27th-30th March 2014, from Mastak and Toor - Gund top which was held by Zakkha Khel fighters; intended target was not more than three kilometres away. Tactical plan was presented and discussed with Major General Ghayur {IGFC} on 2nd April; plan was given the final nod next day by the Corps commander Lieutenant General Khalid Rabbani who himself was present at Jarobi. He suggested 'Nibbling Operations' which were carried out by Punjab Regiment, Khyber Rifles company strength occupied positions at Deli Morcha.

In the year 2014-2015, Khyber II was launched, with an aim to totally cleanse the agency of Taliban, in other word to rout Mangal Bagh. On 16th December 2014, army public school in Peshawar was attacked by the Taliban, disguising themselves as security personals; they slaughtered, shoot, torched and hacked over 152 innocent school children and teaching staff including females. Mrs Saima Saeed wife of Brigadier Tariq Saeed was among them, the brave lady as narrated by students who managed to escape the carnage 'Taliban were picking up the children of army officers among the classes. Took them to the main



Khyber Rifles soldier distributing sweets among Zakkha Khel children

auditorium and started killing, Mrs Saima shouted to the children to run away and stood in door, she was later dragged to the centre of dais, and bearded Taliban mocked her to ask his mercy, on which she refused, she was put to extreme torture', her husband Brigadier Tariq Saeed was among the first one to reach the school along with IGFC Major General Tayyab Azam, Brigadier Tariq narrates 'I was initially stopped by the IGFC not to enter, but I did enter and the school was under fire with occasional bursts coming out from window, air was filled with noise, children were running for the safety and frontier corps and army soldiers providing the children fire cover, running and picking them, firing on the suspected windows there by allowing time for students to run, I had my pistol with me, I did fire few rounds and then I found myself in the auditorium which was fill with explosives smell. Meanwhile special services group company also arrived and we left the school'. Mrs Raheela the principal of the school, went back to it even after hearing about the incident, in order to save her students, she was also later killed by the Taliban. Afterwards the army cleared the school of Taliban, school buildings were almost destroyed, today the school is fully functional and has become a symbol of resistance and unity against the Taliban.



This act of barbarity unified the entire nation, even the supporters of Taliban acknowledged that this menace has to be terminated thus Operation Khyber was further sharpened and finally success was announced on 15th June 2015. There were no pitch battles rather each and every village and stronghold of Taliban was cleared, Taliban employed usual tactics of IEDs which remained the chief cause of all casualties among military. Air was used extensively both rotary and jet pounding.

At the dawn of 2015, Khyber Rifles wings were deployed in following manner, No 4 Wing at Bara in support of Mahsud Scouts, No.5 Wing at Charbagh, No. 3 Wing at Landi Kotal, No.1 Wing at Pinda China and No.2 Wing at Jaroobi. Now the roads are safe, Khyber Pass road has been inaugurated, reconstruction phase is under process, only recently army has started inducting the tribesmen in regular battalions.

Khyber Rifles through the life of soldiers

Senior Junior Commissioned Officer (SJCO) Aman Ulaah ‘Aman’ Afridi was enrolled in Khyber Rifles on 3rd August 1989 as a sepoy in education wing. He recalls, ‘only one bus service was plying between Peshawar and Landi Kotal, moreover from inside the camp one GTS bus service was also plying, fare was Rupees six only, till 1994 it remained same, pay of sepoy was 700 Rupees, cup of tea in canteen was costing quarter of a rupee. Main duty was anti smuggling and there was one weekly and one monthly gasht in the area, Khyber Rifles was being commanded by a lieutenant colonel and major or captain were commanding the wings. In 1990, one wing of Khyber Rifle along with other wings of Frontier Corps were sent to Karachi, it was send as experiment for internal security duties, we came back in 1996 after six long years. Landi Kotal weather even then was very cold, I recall there was snowfall on 15th November 1996, after August even ceiling fans are switched off. In 2000, Khyber Rifles was also represented at United Missions, I was selected for United Nations Mission at Kosovo {UNMIK} in 2004, apart from Kosovo, I also served at Haiti, East Timor and Ivory Coast. In 1992, the selection criteria of Frontier Corps was heavily oriented towards the physical side, thus educated soldiers were less in Frontier Corps, a havildar would be promoted after passing Army Education Class II, whereas now the prerequisite for promotion to naib subedar is matric, presently within Khyber Rifles there is abundance of masters, bachelors and college diploma holders sepoys and junior commissioned officers, there is a great awareness about education. When I joined Khyber Rifles, they were having Bedford trucks and 1978 model Toyota Land cruiser jeep. Journey of minutes were covered in hours and journey of hours in days. Within Khyber Rifles there were events of some kind going around the year, shooting, range firing ‘chaand maari’ volley ball, football, basket ball, cricket and so on, few of them have died due to ongoing war on terror and operational commitment. There were typewriters in use in offices, there was only one information room in the Khyber Rifles, with a big television set, Sony. In the evening the troops would sit and watch news and dramas, now a days almost every room have a television or LCD screen. On Friday, which was a holiday, and Friday night, education wing would run a movie which was a much sought after and looked forward event, now every one have movie or songs in their mobiles. For communication we had big wireless sets which have been replaced by light and handy Motorola sets. We used to write once a month a letter to our home and similarly after a month we would receive any news of what has happened in the village but now due to mobile, every small incident in village is known instantly. Probably the young sepoys are not even aware of post office location in the camp, we used to wait for him. To report any thing to the senior officer we would resort to anonymous letter but today soldier informs officer through SMS’.



Subedar Aman Ullah Aman , wrote few nationalistic poems after the successful atomic explosion by Pakistan in May 1998, for which he was commended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Shariff. He did his masters in Political Science from Peshawar University in 1998 as well. He has served in Khyber Rifles Public School Landi Kotal for well over six years , he was declared as the best compere of Frontier Corps in 2005, he has been a part of drama team as well and author of two books.

Corps Subedar Major is the most coveted, most important appointment for a soldier of Khyber Rifles, to reach that point is not an easy task, almost twenty five years of untainted, fair, loyal, professional tenure, serving in every capacity from office runner to looking after mess, from independent manning of posts to carrying out raids on militant hideouts. In the past prior to 9/11, the appointment and post was mainly on being a good administrator but now the key element is the performance in operations. Muhammad Jamil Kuki Khel Afridi was enrolled in Frontier Corps on 22nd October 1990 as mechanical transport driver. He served at Balahisar Fort for well over six years as driver, he was posted in Khyber Rifles in 1996, he served at Gilgit and operational area for well over a year. In 2002, he served at Tirah and took part in Operation Al Mizan, he remained in operational area for close to two years, promoted to the rank of junior commissioned officer in 2004, it was in this capacity that he took active part for a year in South Waziristan operation in Makin area. In 2005, took over the mechanical transport section of Khyber Rifles and performed the duty for six years. In 2012, he took part in Bara operations, it was after his extra ordinary performances in the operations that he was promoted to the rank of subedar major, he took over on 2nd January 2013 as corps subedar major of Khyber Rifles.

‘Jay Sahib’ Subedar Maqbool Hussain Khattak is presently performing the duty of junior adjutant or simply ‘J’ - ‘Jay Sahib’. He joined Khyber Rifles on 14th January 1991 as a general duty sepoy. Basic training at that time was of ten month duration, he was posted to No.3 Wing, which soon was deployed at Karachi. After two years, Sepoy Maqbool was at Jamrud, taking part in Baramptta , and other minor operations; he was later part of the initial deployment at Tirah in 2001. He underwent professional courses, performed exceptionally well, later he served as instructor. He also qualified as an intelligence operator, in this role , he operated in North Waziristan. A good debater, he was declared the second best debater among inter corps declamation contest of Frontier Corps, captained Khyber Rifles shooting team which won championship under his captaincy; he also led Khattak cultural troupe’s dance party which was declared second best at Mohmand in 2007. Construction, maintenance, uplift of area, quarters and lines all fall under his domain, which he is performing to the satisfaction of his superiors.

Sepoy Kaleem Ulaah belongs to District Swabi ‘when I passed my matric examination, my parents wanted me to do further education, but I knowing the financial conditions of them decided to find a job, on 3rd April 2014, I submitted my papers to Swat Scouts for enrolment in Frontier Corps, and after a week I received a message to report at Hayatabad, joy of my parents is beyond words to express. I reported at Hayatabad and found that I have been selected for Khyber Rifles, I was supposed to report on 20th April 2014. To me, Landi Kotal was a different and a new world, we spent a month at Khyber Rifles and then move to Shakas Fort for training, after a month the operations started in Bara Valley and we move to Thall Scouts for continuation of our training, Thall Scouts seems more strict , from 0300 -1200 hours was parade and drill training and from 1300-1900 hours was ‘working’ and it continued for further four months. Thall Scouts was also busy in operations thus we recruits were also performing the guard duties at posts, it lasted for another month. Our Passing Out was held at Thall Scouts and granted three days leave, which I did not avail rather I opted to undergo



gymnastic and karate course, then boxing after which I reported to Khyber Rifles and since then I am at Pinda China, I am happy, contented and feel proud on my achievement so are my parents’.

Beyond the Call of Duty

Havildar Mimzar Khan Yousafzai was a charismatic non commissioned officer {NCO}, on 11th November 2014, he was part of a quick reaction force which was after a suspect, later the suspect took refuge in a house, Mimzar Khan going beyond the call of his duty went inside the house and when the suspect lobbed a grenade to the party of Khyber Rifles soldiers, Havildar Mimzar Khan immediately threw himself upon the grenade in order to save his comrades, Mimzar Khan was evacuated to the hospital but he embraced shahadat. Mimzar was 40 years of age having a service of 18 years, he belonged to Village Pipal in Mardan.

Havildar Attaullah Afridi of Village Lashoor, Jamrud was born in 1980 and joined Khyber Rifles in 1999. He was performing the duty of intelligence operator, gathering the information about the miscreants and other anti state elements, many a times he was threatened by the Taliban of dire consequences, but Attaullah was a man of steel with a devil may care attitude, for him Khyber Rifles was everything and nothing more sacred or important than the name and prestige of the regiment he was serving. On 27th July 2014, while being on a casual leave in his village for Eid Ul Fitr, at 0200 hours his house was surrounded by the Taliban who started firing and asked for his surrender but Attaullah was a man of honour, he not only refused to surrender, but also fired back which killed two Taliban, a bullet hit him in the thigh, he was running short of ammunition as well, Attaullah escaped to his relative’s house and continued firing. Later he lost consciousness due to excessive bleeding, was taken alive by the Taliban and his body was found next day. This incident highlights the social pattern under which soldiers of Khyber Rifles or Frontier Corps operate, within a village or in a qaum, the men who are serving with Khyber Rifles have their loyalty to corps whereas in many instances the locals or men of village may be having sympathies with Taliban, end result is that in majority of cases the soldiers are thus provided accommodation in Landi Kotal camp or in Peshawar. The miscreants were tracked and killed by men of Khyber Rifles.

Intelligence is the key to success in tribal warfare, **Naib Subedar Minháb Ali** is an exceptionally proficient and extra ordinary daring JCO, he was attached with Khyber Rifles as part of Frontier Corps Intelligence Unit. Minháb was the man who identified and successfully reduced the Abdullah Azam Group in Khyber Agency, not only he identified but also apprehended Gul Shah alias Hassan the main miscreant of Abdullah Brigade. On 28th April 2014, Minháb received the information from his source about the presence of miscreants in Landi Kotal, Minháb putting aside personal danger went to the suspected area and after having confirmed the presence later led the quick reaction force of Khyber Rifles in the apprehension of Rshid alias Khalid Lewana, qari Suleiman alias Saad a hard core suicidal operator, Arman the newly recruited suicide bomber and Abu Bakr the facilitator of Abdullah Brigade, all were killed when Khyber Rifles assaulted their fortified compound.

One of the most dangerous task in the war on militancy has been to identify the bombs, improvised explosive devices {IEDs} and then to diffuse it, it requires steel nerves and an extra ordinary dedication. On the professionalism of these bomb disposal parties depends the lives of whole



convoy or for that matter the war itself as nothing is more demoralising than to loose comrades in such manner. **Naib Subedar Nawaz Khan Shilmani** joined Khyber Rifles in 1993, he diffused over 50 such devices buried and hidden under snow in a single day on 9th February 2014, after the assault phase on Mirozai Sar., he to some extent have an extra terrestrial sense in picking up bombs and mines, he diffuse them in a cool and calm manner.

Sepoy Attique Ur Rehman Khattak of 3 Wing Khyber Rifles was part of the QRF which was operating in Bara , on 20th August 2011, the QRF was facing a stiff resistance from the Mangal Bagh's men. Sepoy Attique volunteered to remove the irritant, he cleverly opted a disuse track to reach a position from where he can open up fire with his light machine gun on the miscreants, he was successful in his mission as in his opening burst he killed two miscreants but in the exchange he suffered a fatal wound in his thigh which took his life.

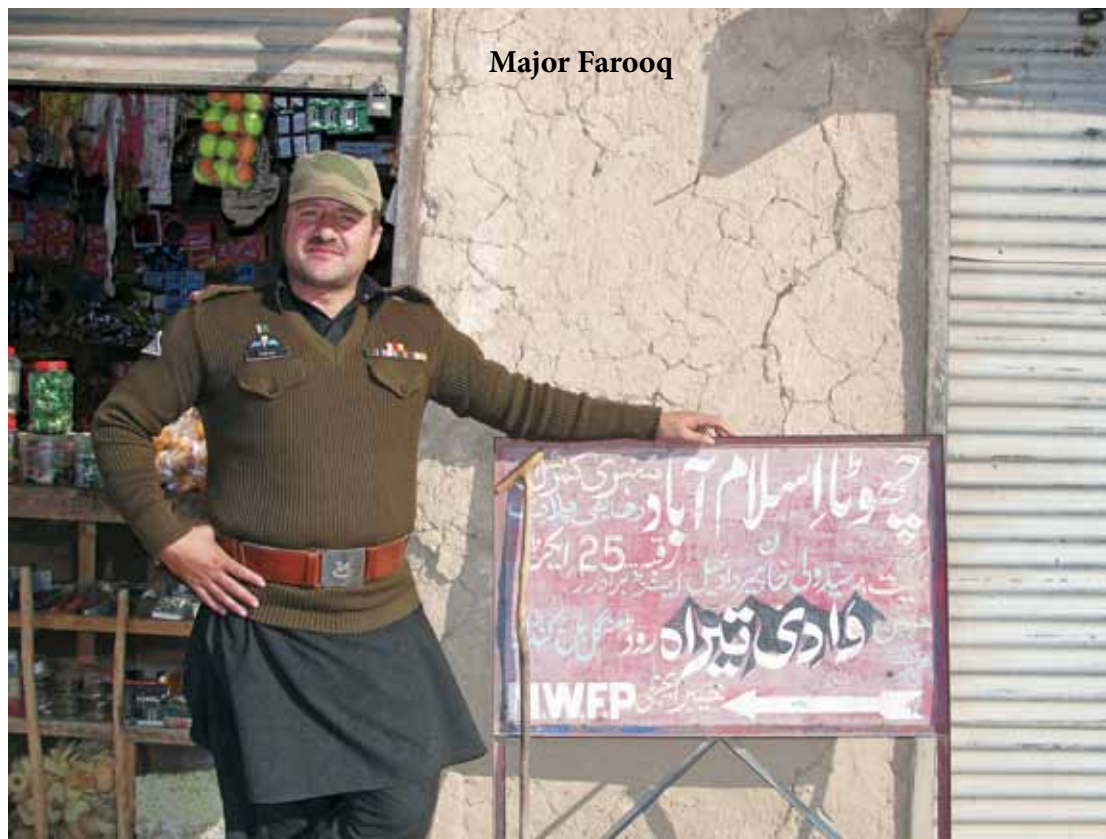
Lance Naik Akhtar Baz Afridi, a keen footballer was part of the QRF that went to Daro Adda Post on 17th October 2011 to replenish the weapons, ammunition and ration of the force, after completion of the assigned mission, the force was coming back, as soon as they crossed the River Bara near Dogra, they found themselves being ambushed by the miscreants hiding in Village Ilm Guddar. Akhtar was a signal operator, being in the vanguard he was in safe zone as far as the fire was concerned but , he saw his comrades his friends who were hit with the firing, lying in the bed of the Bara River, Akhtar went back, crawled for over a hundred meters and reached his comrades, evacuated two of the wounded soldiers, while evacuating the third brother in arms , he was hit by a sniper shot yet he brought the more serious injured soldier to safety, later Lance Naik Akhtar succumbed to the injuries and embraced shahadat 'he set a unique example of gallantry and self-sacrifice which will be remembered in times to come' were the comments of his commandant Colonel Fayyaz Mughul. In the same encounter **Sepoy Adil Zaman Khattak** also displayed exceptional bravery, he changed his firing position quite frequently as per teaching thus engaging the miscreants, 'infact he was instrumental in saving the lives of his colleagues and killing various miscreants'. In the end Sepoy Adil sacrificed his life for his motherland. Another man who distinguish himself on that fateful day was **Naik Farid Khan Yousafzai**, he was the commander of light machine gun detachment, he displayed exceptional bravery and mental alertness, first and foremost tactical commandment is to keep on changing the firing positions in order to confuse the enemy and not to allow him to bring sniper fire, Naik Farid adhered to the tactics and led with personal example, during which he suffered a fatal wound and embraced shahadat. As a detachment commander, he raised the morale of his under command by reaching to their positions, guiding them, indicating targets and also replenishing the ammunition. **Sepoy Zar Munir Shilmani** had just joined back his wing, he was the rocket launcher firer, as the rear guard came under ambush in River Bara, rocket launcher firer carries the launcher and three rockets on body, which is quite a weight. Zar analysed the situation and soon identified the compound from which the sniper fire was being fired on his colleagues, Sepoy Zar stalked to the compound, fire the first rocket, then the second and third, all these quick fired rockets forced the miscreants to abandon the compound but before they fled, they inflicted a fatal shot which took the life of this young brave soldier.

In the aftermath of the ambush, on 18th October 2011, **Naib Subedar Ehsan ur Rehman Khattak** was incharge of the 'destruction party' to demolish the houses in which the miscreants took positions yesterday, he had apart from usual and standard man and firepower, additional excavators. The Ilm Gudr Village was still smoking when the demolition started, soon the odd miscreants opened fire on the force, thus compelling the excavator



operators to take cover. Miscreants armed with rocket launcher started creeping towards the machinery with an aim to destroy it, Naib Subedar Ehsan, very intelligently read the situation, took initiative and with boldness advanced towards the excavators, waited for the right moment and then opened fire on the advancing miscreants killing two of them on spot and forcing other to flee. He later towed the excavators with his own truck during which he was seriously wounded yet he ensured the safety of his men and equipment.

Ilm Gudr is a notorious village, on 10th March 2012, operations were carried out to flush out the miscreants and allies of Mangal Bagh, **Naib Subedar Anwar Hussain Khattak** was detailed as the squad junior commissioned officer with wing commander, they were operating with an aim to either apprehend the miscreants or simply to kill them in case they refuse to surrender. When the QRF reached on the outskirts of the village, the expected fire came on them, the layout of village is such that it is comprised of mud compounds, all interlinked with each other, thus offering plenty of firing positions to the occupants. Anwar Hussain very courageously and by virtue of his experience identified the compound from which the fire was coming, stalked with his party, jumped into the compound and despite receiving the initial round, led his men, in the end the compound was occupied with two miscreants dead and other two captured. **Naik Ahmad Gull Bangash** was the signal operator in the force, with the passage of time the streets of the village became the battlefield, incessant fire coming from all directions both from own and that of miscreants, cloud of dust filled with smoke of gunpowder reduced visibility and increased 'fog of war'. Naik Ahmad in this scenario kept his senses at high alert, signallers are not as well trained in field craft as the general duty soldiers are. All of a sudden, Ahmad saw shadows moving and then it dawned to him that the talibans are around him. Very first burst from Ahmad took the initiative away from the stalking Taliban, two were dead and other two wounded, return fire hit him on thigh, he crawled himself and took cover behind a wall and kept the Taliban engaged till his own comrades joined him. **Sepoy Attaullah Mullaguri**, also jumped in with the Naib Subedar Anwar, He and Anwar both gave each other covering fire and by 'fire and move' inched forward, the irregular burst of





machine gun, occasional blast of rocket launcher, the typical sound of hand grenades, the shouting in Pashtu,; real test of real men. Sepoy Attaullah displayed stunning heroism and fortitude, furious fire fights resulted in closeness with absolutely no stand off in between, in street-to-street fights resulted in closeness with enemy. ‘He killed three on spot, forced rest of them to take refuge in a compound’, subsequently cleared by his comrades.

Major {Pakistan Army No. 37959} **Farooq Zaman Khan** an armoured corps officer posted in Khyber Rifles ‘ is a remarkably devoted and professionally competent officer, being the son of soil he had indepth understanding of psychology and sociology of the area, his convincing ability during negotiations with Zakkha Khel Aman Lashkar to undertake operation Mirozai Sar as a joint force marked as mile stone in capture of this valued feature’.

Major Wasif Mahmood Qureshi was the wing commander, task to capture the Mirozai Sar ‘He led from front...played a key role in the flawless planning , his contributions to win Zakkha Khel tribe’s loyalty towards the state merits special mention’.

Major Shah Faisal Piri another armoured corps officer posted in Khyber Rifles as wing second in command, ‘rightly identified and successfully managed to reduce Abdullah Azam Group and other high value terrorists groups in the Khyber Pass, Major Piri apprehended Gul Shah alias Hassan, who was involved in the multiple rocket attacks on Khyber Rifles, in 2013 attack on Stopa Post, planning and planting explosives during 2013 Elections. Major Piri also apprehended miscreants, Qari Yousaf alias Doctor who were collecting the ‘chanda’ for the Abdullah azam group and those who were involved in the attack on NATO oil tankers like Shafique of Tariq Geedar group.

Colonel Fayyaz Muhammad Mughul ; His command lineament is adorned with wisdom, foresight and dedication, capture of Mirozai Sar is indeed a result of his absolute cognition, meticulous planning and foremost his emblematic leadership’. Brigadier Nasir Khan, the Sector Commander Centre wrote. He also wrote about, **Colonel Mansoor Ahmed Janjua** ‘Educated with impregnable faith and undoubted veneration to the cause of eliminating terrorism menace from the country and especially from Khyber Pass.



Children's perspective of Khyber Agency

The students of the Khyber Public School at Landi Kotal Garrison, run by Khyber Rifles were asked to write essay about their village and general life. Aim is to recollect and preserve the scenery and life of the agency through their mind and eyes, I have edited very less and translated it from Urdu with same grammatical mistakes as committed by original authors.

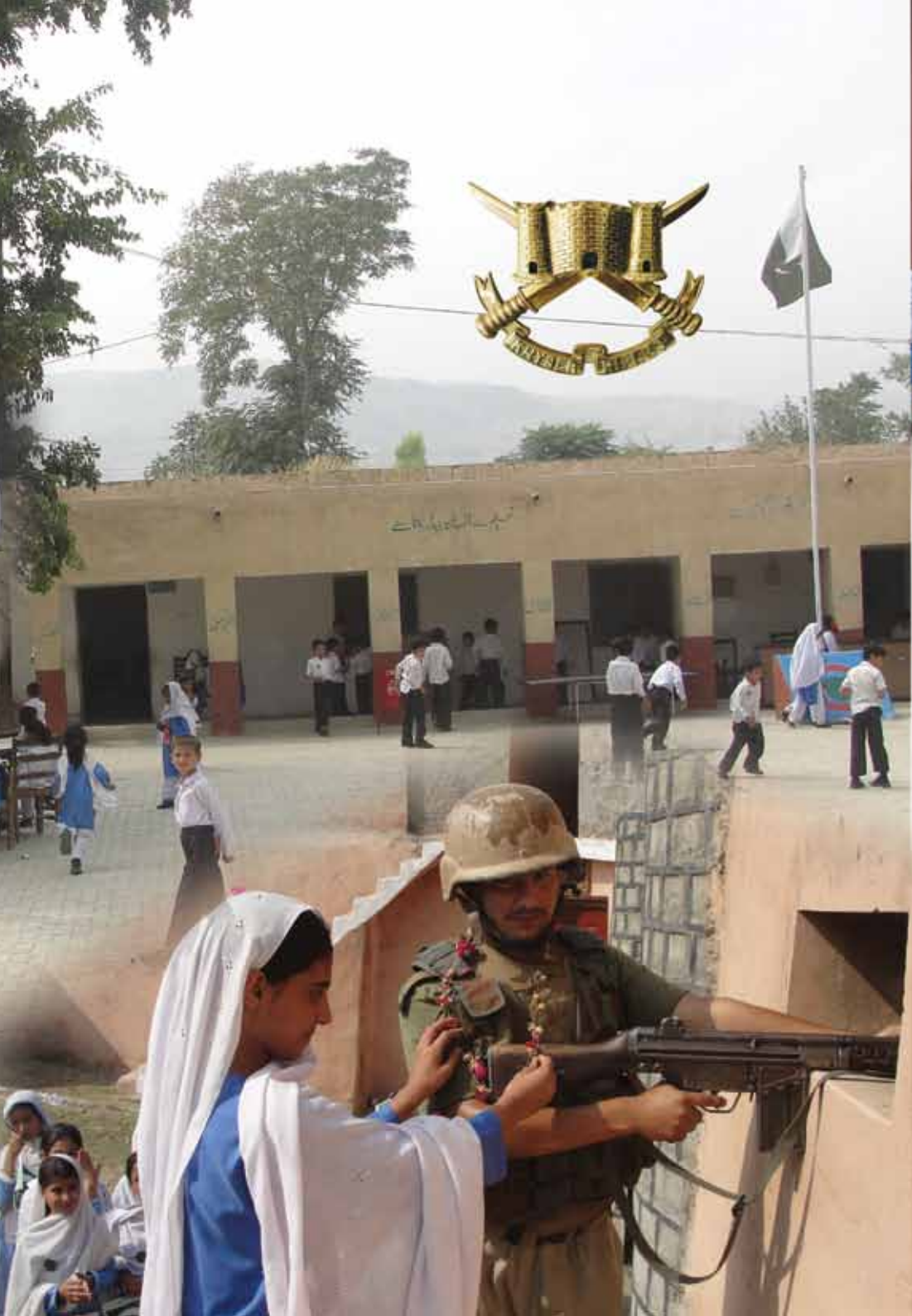
Amz Haseeb of class IX, wrote 'name of my village is Loi Shalman, my village is very beautiful, people are very hardworking and work all day in field, my village is very religious, there is a big mosque in my village, there are many small dams in my village, natural water flows in my village'. **Shehzad** of Class IX wrote about his village Mukhmal Khel 'my village is very beautiful, there is a big mosque in my village, there is a big green maidan in my village in which we graze our goat and lambs, there is a big water pond in my village also, there is a water well also from which we drink water, water is very cold. In the evening people play sports, cricket and football are very popular, in my village we all live like brother'. **Nauman Masih** a Christian writes, 'I live in Landi Kotal, in our mohallah there are four houses of Christians, we all love each other, there is a church next to our mohallah, there are many trees, we have water and electricity, hospital is also close by, jail is also very close, there is a post office also, telephone facility is also available. My city is very beautiful, where ever we go we miss our city'. **Khalid Khan** writes about Khuga Khel 'my village name is Khuga Khel, it has a population of 230 houses, only eight houses are pucca, rest all are mud houses, there is a Jazz tower in my village, there is a big maidan in my village, road leading to my village is very bad, in rainy season it is full of water and mosquitoes sit there'. **Taj Wali**, writes about Zakkha Khel village in Tirah Valley, 'my village is situated among high mountains, there is a big garden in my village, it has flowers of all kind, all around my village are beautiful fields. In winter there is snowfall in my village, there is a beautiful river by the name of Bara which flows close to my village, Afghanistan border is very close to my village, there is a big mosque in my village where we all pray together, there is a road down below my village'. **Fazl Samad** of Class VIII also hails from same area and writes, 'My village is close to Tirah Bazar, Zakha Khel, Mangal Bagh Kandao, there is a primary school in my village, in which children gets education in good manner, there is a fresh pond in my village, there is a high mountain in my village, in my village there is snowfall for two months, my village is close to Afghanistan border, there are many people in my village in summer, walnut is very much produced in my village, there is a small bazar in my village where people go for shopping, there is a big mosque in my village,'.

Muhammad Noor from Tirah writes 'my home is on the peak of Tirah Valley, around my home are trees, there is a garden of pomegranate, there is a garden of walnut also, outside my home is a water well, a water tank also, before my birth a Russian missile landed in my village, it made a big pond, the well in my house can feed thirteen houses, there is a old apricot tree next to well, road is eighty kilometers away from my house, there is no house next to my house, in the north of my home is a big jungle, there are many trees in this jungle, but olive tree are more, in my home there is a big chinar tree which is visible from far distance, there are fields on the west of my house which are very beautiful, people can take photographs here, there is a field in my house in which we cultivate vegetables.' **Nisar Ahmed** 's essay is bit different as he is from Kandho Khel which is a Shinwari area and next to Landi Kotal Bazar,' in my village there are two grounds, one for cricket and other for football, big tournaments are held here and many people come to watch them, there is a tableegi markaz in my village, for which people come from far, it is very close to my house, there is a



bazar, a government college, sarkari hospital, a government school and a big market. Environment in my village is very bad, there are Afghan trucks, which when moves kicks dust which engulfs whole village, many people suffer from diseases. Also there is stagnant water in front of houses, people also throw litter openly, there are very very few trees in my village. There are Khyber Rifles troops all around village which protects us, my village is comparatively at peace now, before this, it was very much fear, when someone dies in our village, whole village goes on his funeral and also cooks food for family, the hospital working is poor'. **Ghaghra Khel** is another village next to Bazar, it comprise of forty odd houses, with a big mosque and a water well, it is located on top of ridge, informs Anwar Zeb of class eight. **Shahid Asan Afridi** of class eight writes, 'name of my village is Landi Kotal, it is in Khyber Agency, it is very cold, all around are mountains, in winter lot of snow on these mountains, people of my village are peace loving and simple, they like education, there are thirteen schools in my village, three for girls and ten for boys. There is one college for boys also, the population of my village is thirty thousands, majority of houses are made of mud. There is lot of 'ittefaq' in my village, we all do every work with ittefaq, there is a mausoleum of a famous Pashtu poet in my village. There is a bazar and a hospital in my village, one big and beautiful cantonment is also here in which Pak- Fauj lives.

Maqbool Hussain also lives two kilometers away from Landi Kotal bazaar, he writes ' name of my village is Mando Khel, we are two kilometres away from bazar, in my village , there are many educated people, doctors, engineers, technicians lives in my village, in my village the ratio of poor people is more than rich people, there is a path which leads to grand trunk road, there are four tube wells in my village, there are three hundred people in my village, there are mountain all around my village, it is kind of government that they have constructed road to our village, in my village every one has a hujra. **Sajid Ali** son of Mastana Gul is from Shilman 'my house is twenty kilometers away from Landi Kotal, I live in a mud house, it has two rooms and one hujra also, one veranda is also there, my home is one kilometer away from road, and I have to walk on mud track, my father is a retired servant, he retired twenty years ago , he still has not work again'. Last account is about the camp itself as narrated by Noor Un Anwaar of class 8th 'My village name is Camp it is close to bazaar, there are 300 houses in camp, three schools, six mosques and two officers messes are also in it. Majority of houses in camp are katcha, there are two big markets in camp, from where daily use items are temporary available, for more important things, people have to go to bazaar. All the people living in camp are very peaceful and educated, majority are uneducated, football is their favourite pastime , there is a big ground for foot ball in camp. Now there is awareness of education among people. For the safety of the camp there is large army, they get good food, sometime back, there was a Commandant Colonel Fayyaz, he did lot of good work in the camp, like schools and making of quarters, he also overcame the shortage of water for houses, he made a huge water tank and now we get water daily, there is a big mosque close to my house, moulvi sahib gives lesson to children on Holy Quran'.





KHYBER RIFLES PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL

NO	RANK	NAME	FROM	TO
1	SUB	REQAB GUL	1. 10. 90	20.5.96
2	SUB	SARZ ALI	21.5. 96	15.3.99
3	SUB	SHAFI HUSSIAN	16.9. 99	15.2.02
4	SUB	ABDUL JALIL	16.2.02	26.12.05
5	SUB	FAZAL RAZIQ	29.12.05	2.8.07
6	N/SUB	AMANULLAH	3.8.07	10.4.09
7	N/SUB	GUL REHMAN	11.4.09	30.6.11
8	SUB	IHSAN	1.7.11	24.12.12
9	N/SUB	MAMMOOR KHAN	25.12.12	15.9.14
10	N/SUB	QASIM JAN	16.9.14	

K R P H

- School came into being in 1960
- In the beginning it was established at Primary level
- In 1993 the school was upgraded to middle level
- In 2004 it was upgraded to higher level
- Medium of instruction was changed from Urdu to English in 2007
- Besides children of FC/Army personals, many locals also study in the school
- The school is affiliated with board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Peshawar
- Since its establishment, school is committed to import quality education among its students





Wing Commanders Khyber Rifles 2009-2011



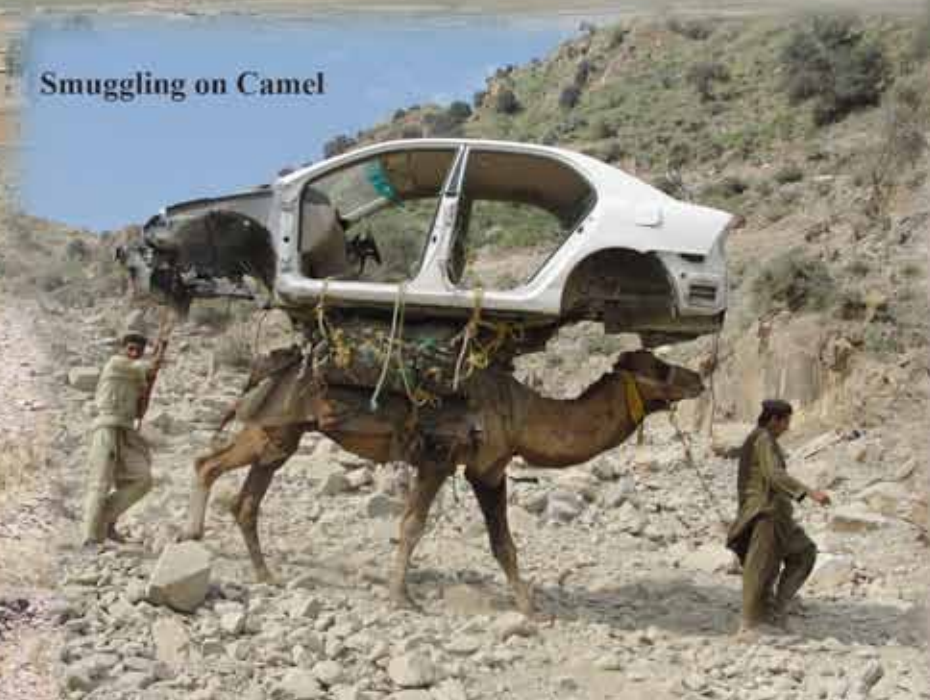
X-Mass Khyber Rifles 2006



Fateh 'Sher Sar'



Donkey is vital as water carrier



Smuggling on Camel



A young soldier



Chapter V

Mess, Forts, Posts & Piquets

Khyber Rifles Officers Mess

September 2013. I arrived at Landi Kotal after an hour of historic drive to enter into Khyber Rifles Mess another historic landmark, I have read and heard so much about it that I felt as if I have been here before, a large mess with open green lawn a rare sight here, it is double storied and decorated in style. The gallery of the mess is the most talk about in the world because nowhere else one finds such luminaries like Quaid e Azam, Carter, Nixon, Bush senior, Jacky Kennedy, Thatcher, John Major, Emperor Raza Shah, Emperor Akhito, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King Saud, King Hussein, Queen Elizabeth, Diana, Princess Anne, Mahattir, Robert de Niro, Sachin Tendulkar, Muhammad Ali Clay, Imran Khan, to name few who have visited and presented their autograph photographs. The variety of shields are a subject in themselves. Wooden, brass, plastic, crystal, paper, cloth, etching, engraving, and all that has been possible are here; these shields are from almost every country including North Korea, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Abu Dhabi, Glasgow Police, Defence Intelligence Agency, Canadian Mounted Police, Australian parliament, Swiss armed forces, France, Portugal and even India. Probably the only mess in Pakistan where the shields presented by Indian defence attaches are placed prominently. These shields are an insight into the country's culture there are some who have taken the pain to engrave the presented to Khyber Rifles and others have simply presented by so and so. Many of the shields have lost their colour and shine and the insignias itself have lost their shape and even the screws have become loose. All in all over 1200 such shields adore the long wall and two rooms of the mess. There are walls dedicated to single country, USA, UK are the leading visitors followed by Turkey. There are rare souvenirs also like the autographed bats of English and Indian cricket teams. It is a who is who of Pakistan military, General Zia Ul Haq { he served in Khyber Rifles as major in 1954} General Abdul Waheed Kakkar, President General Musharraf, Air Chief Marshall Zulfikar Khan, Naval Chiefs including Chaudhry Muhammad, and Field Marshall Ayub Khan have graced this mess. Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto, Governor General Iskander Mirza, President General Yahya Khan, President Farooq Leghari all have been guests at Khyber Rifles Officers Mess.

Mess design is also new, all other corps of Militia have vintage officers mess, the reason being that Khyber Rifles remained inactive for almost twenty years and as such when they were reraised in 1946 and came





Khyber Rifles Officers Mess



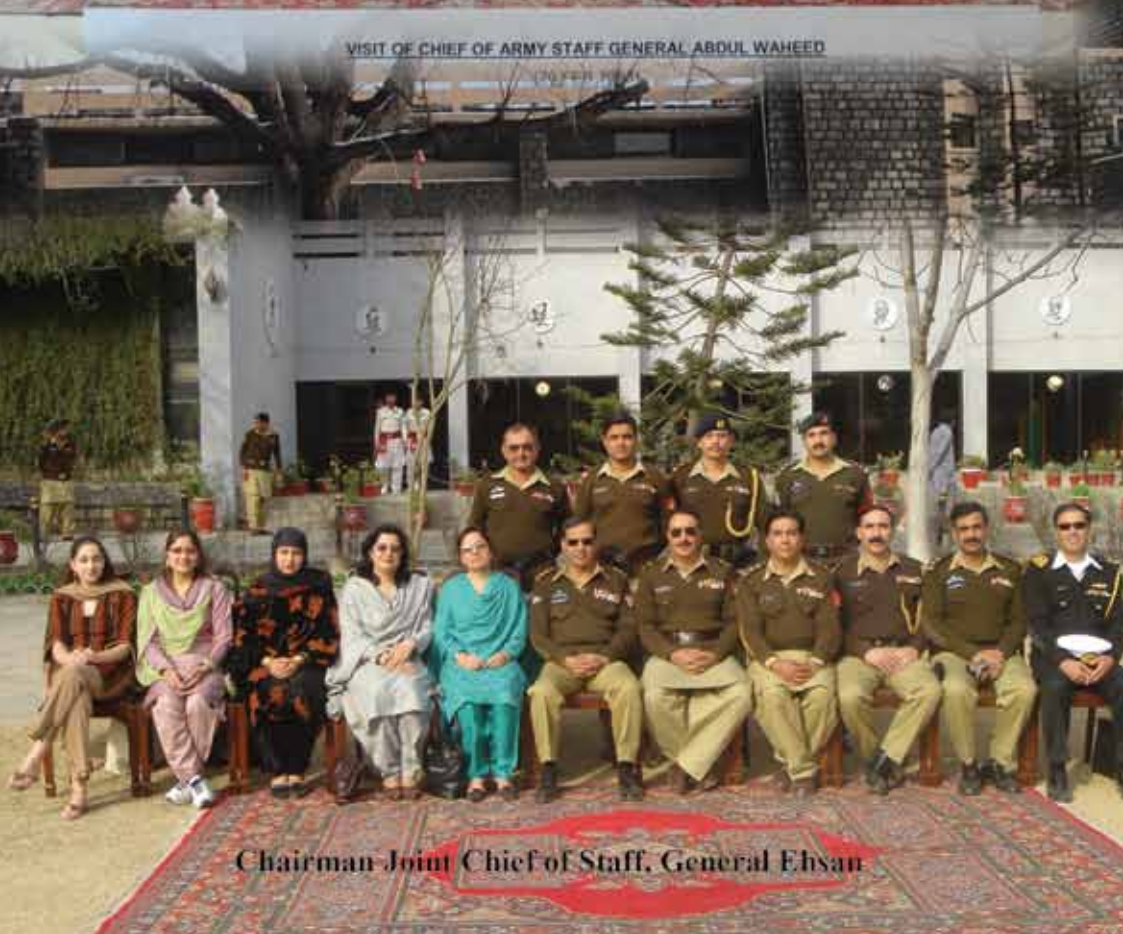




Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed Kakar – 1993

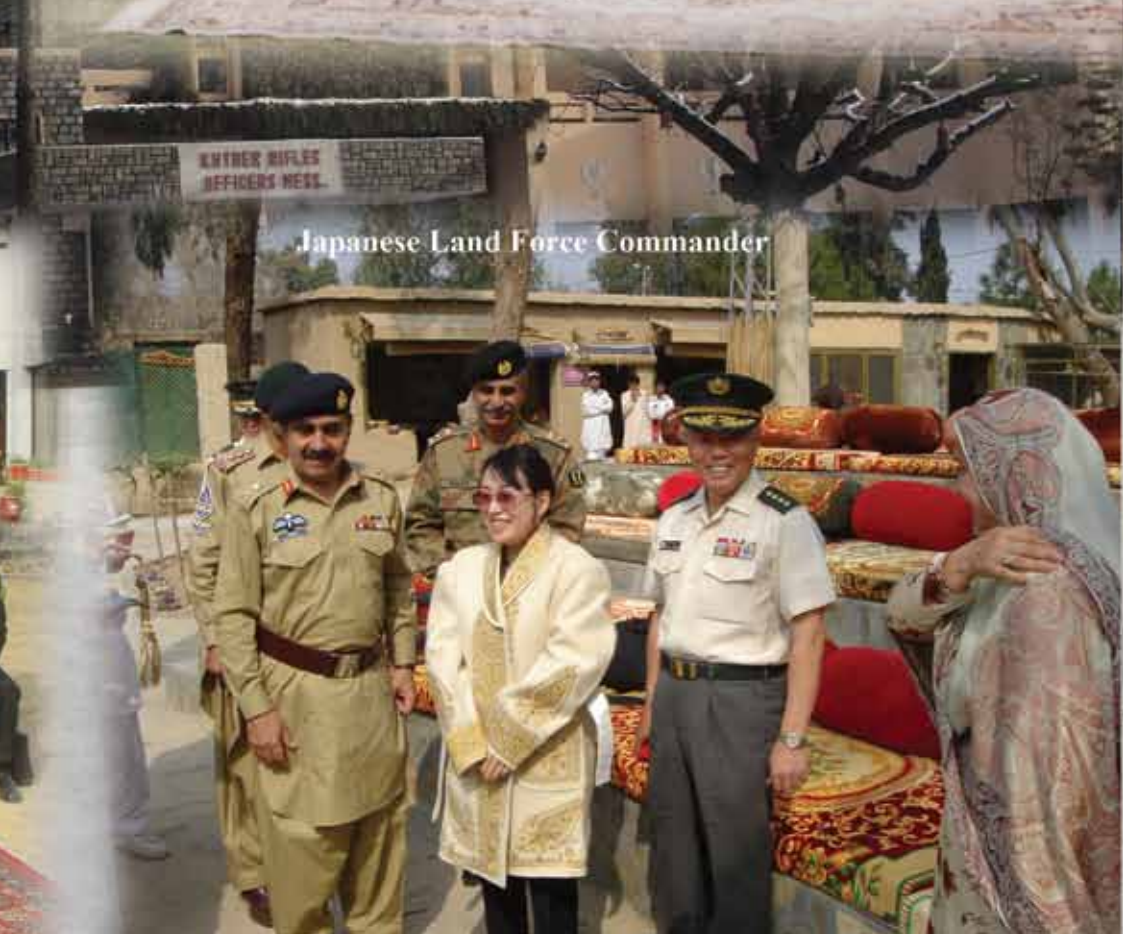


President General Zia-ul-Haq with former USA President Nixon



VISIT OF CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF GENERAL ABDUL WAHEED

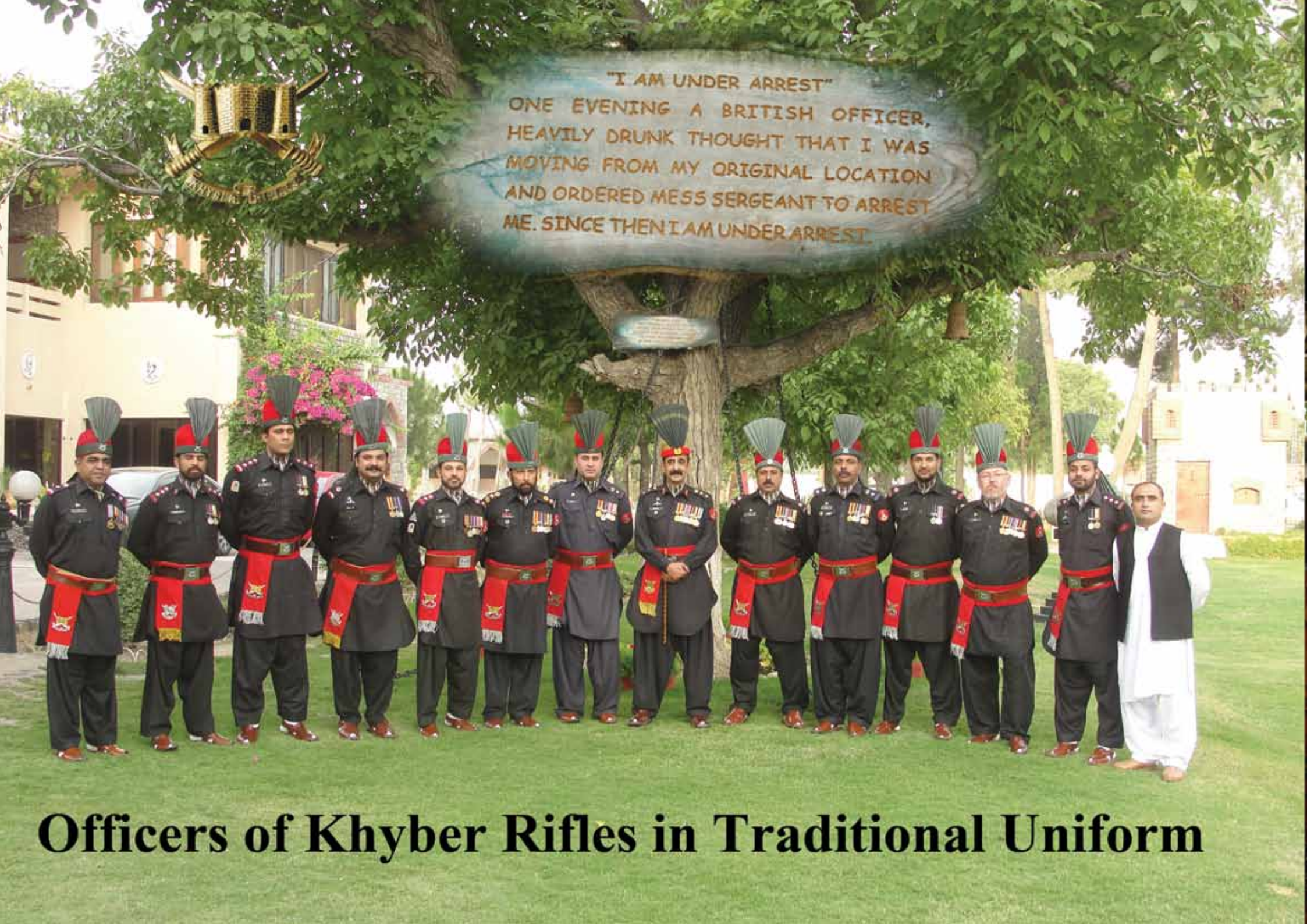
Chairman Joint Chief of Staff, General Ehsan



Japanese Land Force Commander



Chief of General Staff UK Sir Nicholas Carter - 20 March 2015



Officers of Khyber Rifles in Traditional Uniform



Mess Gallery



Old Mess Barrack



Mess Mosque



back to Landi Kotal, there was nothing left of old time. Landi Kotal did had an officers mess in 1946 but it belongs to army. An old barrack located on the same site was utilised as the officers' mess, present day commandant's house was also part of the mess, it still is. In 1963 the sanction for new mess was given and building was functional in 1965. Mess has undergone constant upgradation and expansion, the number and status of the visiting dignitaries is the main reason for this refurbishment. Visiting dignitaries used to travel by road from Peshawar, lunch at Khyber Rifles Mess, than move to Michni Piquet for a view of Khyber Pass and before sunset drive back to Peshawar. Now they arrive by helicopter, either at Michni or at Khyber Rifles helipad in Landi Kotal, in any case Mess has to be ready for a lunch or tea break for the guests. In an ordinary condition, it must be understood that nothing other than fruits are available in Landi Kotal bazar and as such all preparation for the lunch or dinner has to be meticulously planned, items procured from Peshawar and transported to Landi Kotal in time; so far Khyber Mess has defied the Murphy Law. In 2005-2007 under Colonel Qaiser major renovation was carried out which included construction of Mathra Village, a miniature cultural heritage showpiece depicting the life pattern of tribes; it has now been converted into Khyber Rifles Cultural Heritage, sunroom was added by Colonel Mansoor Janjua, thus it is a constant uplift.

Outside is a tree which is in chains because a drunk British officer felt it moving one night in 1913 and ordered it to be chained and it is still chained. Sundial is another historic showpiece, the only working sundial since 1932, new addition is the stone having abstract religious scripture it was added in 2014, within the mess lawn is a grave of Micky, a dog, buried in 1904, she was commandant's pet.

In the evening had a cup of tea in the mess lawn and enjoyed the company of two officers both Major Raza and Major Farooq. There was a ladies get together at the mess and thus we also had the opportunity to enjoy the chicken, noodles and dehi balay followed by cup of tea. Talk range from importance of sports in army to the disadvantages of mobile phone. In all the Frontier Corps messes there is no set menu rather it is what you would like to eat, we chalked out a plan where I was given the freedom to walk around. Later I came to my room. My guest room {Michni} is spacious, large and huge just like a seventies film of Muhammad Ali, it is designed in a manner which creates nostalgia. Later the commandant came for a courtesy call. He is from 25 Cavalry and has been a defence attaché in Uzbekistan for three years thus I had many questions to ask.

Next day, in the evening, when I had a look at the mess lawn, I saw sofas and tables with lights, surely a party but why and for whom, I soon found out that it is for visiting brigadier of engineers, I was invited and I accepted it. Dinner in the open, mostly Bar BQ, fruit salad, rice, mutton, fish, qorma conversation ranging mostly about education. Later a good ice cream {not hand made} followed by green tea and another hour of military gossips in which I was the silent occupant. The lights went out for ten minutes and in this I saw the moon which was veiled between the leaves of high tall pine trees, what a view.

I met the old mess waiter Gul Anar, he has been serving the mess for last forty five years now his son Owais is also working in the mess, another cook Aarsal had died last year he served Khyber Rifles for well over sixty years.

The dance party or **cultural troupe** of Frontier Corps has performed at White House also. They all have long hair, fancy dresses and when they started off it was thrilling, each tribes dance party came to perform one at a time, Mahsud were the first, comprising of thirty odd scouts, all having long hair. Mahsud dance is certainly very manly, the beat is heavy and no feminine shrilling voice or music of flute just drums and they move their heads as



if they are going for a war, all of a sudden one dancer starts whirling around the lawn in a circle at a breath taking speed. Bhattanis were the next they had a flute, then Chitralis, they are soft in nature their dance is more like two peacocks having a date, it is flute oriented. In the end the Khattak with their swords thrilled the ten odd guests including myself and four hosts.

2014 November

Reaching **Khyber Mess** was like coming back to a relative's home, the mess havildar was the same, waiters were same and it was so refreshing to see them and embrace them, I was allotted the same room the Michni, top floor at the end. Mess was undergoing renovations when I left in summer; especially the top floor, stairs and billiard room, now they all have been completed and giving a good look. Officers were sitting in the ante room watching the fifth and final one day match between Pakistan and South Africa, Pakistan already had lost the series and they lost this match as well without putting up any fight. I was invited by commandant for a dinner at his house at 2000 hours. I was there in time.

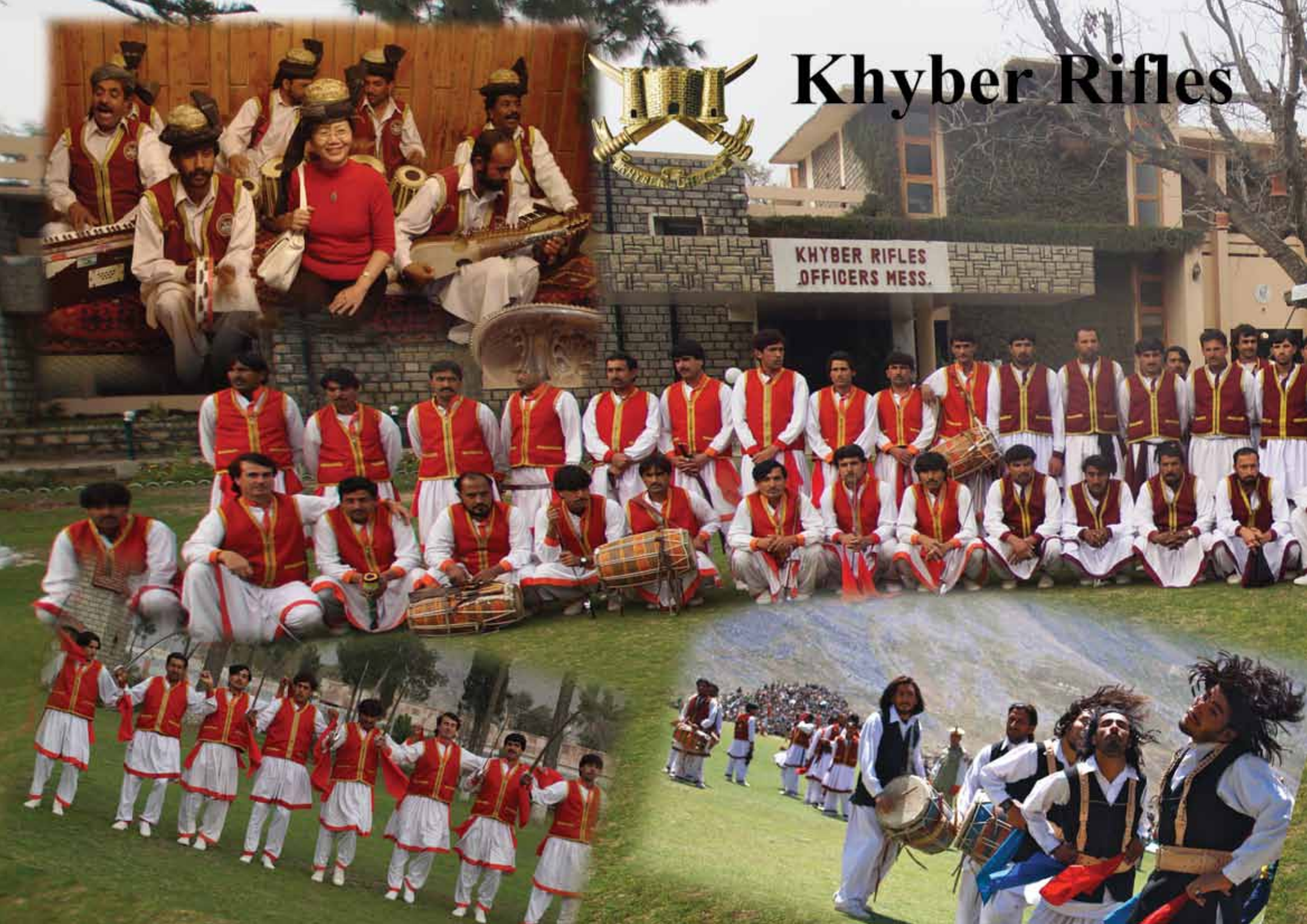
Night was cold, starlit with moon in second phase thus bit of light, all in all very peaceful; it was almost midnight. My room was also cold as there is no gas in Landi Kotal and I did not asked for an electrical heater. Khyber Rifles is not authorised K-2 oil in winter which all army units are authorised, rather they are allowed only firewood for warmth in winter {December – end March}. Budget is allocated for a year in which amount sanctioned caters for ice in summer and firewood in winter, scale is nine kilogram per day per point and cost of wood is rupees 22/ per kilogram.

28th July 2015

Road is now almost complete and drive is just like mall road, few patches are yet to be carpeted but overall it is a grand change in the pass outlook. Line of trucks were parked on one side of road, apparently waiting for custom clearance at Torkham, and this line stretches to short of Landi Kotal, no fear of IED, there was only one gunman in the vehicle, driver had been here only once and as such took the bypass route, I was the one who corrected him and took them back to the camp. The scene in the mess was bit different as I saw men wearing uniform and working in the mess lawn, most of the faces seems familiar, it later dawned that they all are from cultural troupe. I met mess staff, same hospitality and warmth. Almost all officers are new less Major Jawad the mess secretary, adjutant is again from air defence and so is intelligence officer. Met commandant Colonel Tariq, I had last met him when he had



Khyber Rifles



Cultural Troupe





just arrived in the mess last year and Colonel Mansoor was in command, also recalled Colonel Mansoor now brigadier, a fine officer, Colonel Tariq is equally hospitable, courteous and helping. I was to be given access to all the data. Sitting with Major Jawad , I highlighted the plan, later I came to my room , same guest room; Michni.

Mess have a different outlook after a rain, water is a scarce commodity in Landi Kotal, still the mess lawn is green, the only green patch in Landi Kotal, rain brings magic to mess, lawn is green so are trees and other plants, mess have a squadron of cranes, peacocks, birds of various variety. As a routine mess starts functioning at 0730 hours, maintenance, cleaning, sweeping and gardening. Lunch is not prepared rather it is on as and when requirement same holds true for dinner. In the evening , lawn chairs are placed in mess lawn, officers and their families do sit in lawn having a cup of tea. In present time, due to operational requirement there is a constant movement in and out of mess, weapons are not allowed inside the mess thus all soldiers acting as escort are dropped outside the mess. A mess secretary is responsible for the functioning of mess, he performs this duty apart from his other military tasks, a mess junior commissioned officer, usually he is due for promotion, same holds true for mess havildar. Four mess waiters, one munshi, and one mess clerk are the other staff not to overlook sweeper and gardener.

Khongi ‘Talab’ and Water Reservoir ‘Mirza’ Piquet

Day was warm and it was pleasant to sit in shade. The vehicle came, driver was a Mullagori , for moving around outside the camp, an escort is must which is standard with three soldiers having SMGs , at times an rocket launcher is also part of it; we moved out towards the first destination a water reservoir piquet. There are two piquet around Landi Kotal camp on the eastern side, on the North north east piquet is simply called as Khongi or Talab {pond} Piquet and other as Mirza which is bigger in size and is on east of camp.

Drive was interesting, it was school closing time and students all male were wearing blue shalwar kameez instead of militia colour, quite a number of trucks {1400-1700 vehicles move daily across this border}. I saw a local grave yard the way it is different from normal is in the fact that natives erects large flat stone at times two on grave thus it gives an odd but not frightening picture, there are many graveyards and they are nestled in between the houses. These are graves of old wars and those who died of epidemic in 1890s. Shops were open and people moving in normal manner, none was carrying any weapons, driver informed me that now it is forbidden and only those are allowed to carry arms who have any vendetta around them. Passing through the mud habitat having a paved road, we headed towards the piquet which is at a higher elevation having barbed wire all around it, a deserted pond in front. The guard commander Havildar Sadiq Yousafzai welcomed me and in Pashtu told a sepoy to fetch a cold drink but I do understand the language now, thus I asked for only a glass of local water which he reluctantly brought. View is good, all around I saw mud and plaster houses and I was informed that this area belongs to Shinwari tribe and they have three sub clans who live here apart from Afghans. The houses are at low level thus I could see what is going on inside, woman cooking , children running but overall void of life. In Waziristan it could have sparked a war had this kind of piquet been there as it happened in 2011 but here piquet is old and houses are new thus morally the militia has an upper hand. By this time I was convinced that area is peaceful in nature. Went inside the **Talab Piquet** , it has cemented staircase for entrance otherwise a solid block of bricks, only four men were inside, they had two charpoys outside as well with a radio. Electricity is only for an hour everyday, cooking is done by



the piquet with fresh ration coming daily, I saw a goat moving around and recalled the standing orders of Tochi Scouts of 1922 which forbids goats at piquet.

British established the present camp in 1899 and by 1910 had constructed the piquet covering all sides of the camp at higher elevation. All in all there are four such piquets and post, the difference between post and piquet is in size, post have more capacity of troops. After an hour we move back. The deserted water reservoir was once brimmed with water and source of life, water is scarce here, I did not realized it in mess but here life revolves around water. The source is at ten miles away near the Pak-Afghan border .

Return journey was more comfortable and knowledgeable, saw a shop having the name Israel sabzi shop, not much of people on road, saw sign posting of lady doctors clinics, coaching centres, petrol pumps and so on. We move from north towards the eastern direction towards a piquet known as **Mirza Piquet**, the driver temporarily lost the way and while we were reversing I saw two women walking and they tried to cover their face when they saw us but there was no urgency in them. Mirza piquet is not the original name, rather a nick name whose history cannot be verified. The piquet looks a magnificent work of defence , it dominates the area, it is on higher elevation , much bigger in size can hold over 100 soldiers for a fortnight, absolutely covered with only firing slits visible like poke marks on a cheese slab. The post commander initially took me around this solid block of stone. The Shinwari tribe is the neighbour at low elevation. There are no stair cases rather an iron ladder which can be pulled up too. Inside it have three tiers, the lowest level which is primarily for animals and toilet area, then the one which I climbed and another one at upper which can be reached through a wooden broad staircase with steep angle. At the top one half of roof is covered and other half is open to let the sun rays come in. At all corners, at all tiers less the base are solid iron protruding boxes with firing slits, I later climbed to the roof as well which is connected with a bamboo ladder, it is difficult to climb. The view from top vibrantly a refreshing one , one can watch all around, the road junction, the camp, the village around, the communication towers at far mountains. Later I came down and accepted the offer of green tea ‘Shilmanni’ it is a local specialty , the herb is found in Shilman tribe area. The post commander further increased my knowledge of how to make the green tea, first boil the water, then add sugar and then few herbs of Shilman. The cost of herb is at present about 400 Rupees per kilogram. Piquet is mud brick from inside, outside the stones have been used, floor are made of wood so is the roof with steel girders in between, I tried to find out the company who made it, normally TATA were the main suppliers of iron, there girders have been used at Thal Fort also but I could not find the name of manufacturer. There is very little electricity, no connection from camp, water for post also comes on a bowser and on my inquiry that why don’t you use electric motor to suck water from reservoir, the answer was vague in nature. Post commander was hopeful that he will get it done once the new commandant comes here on his visit

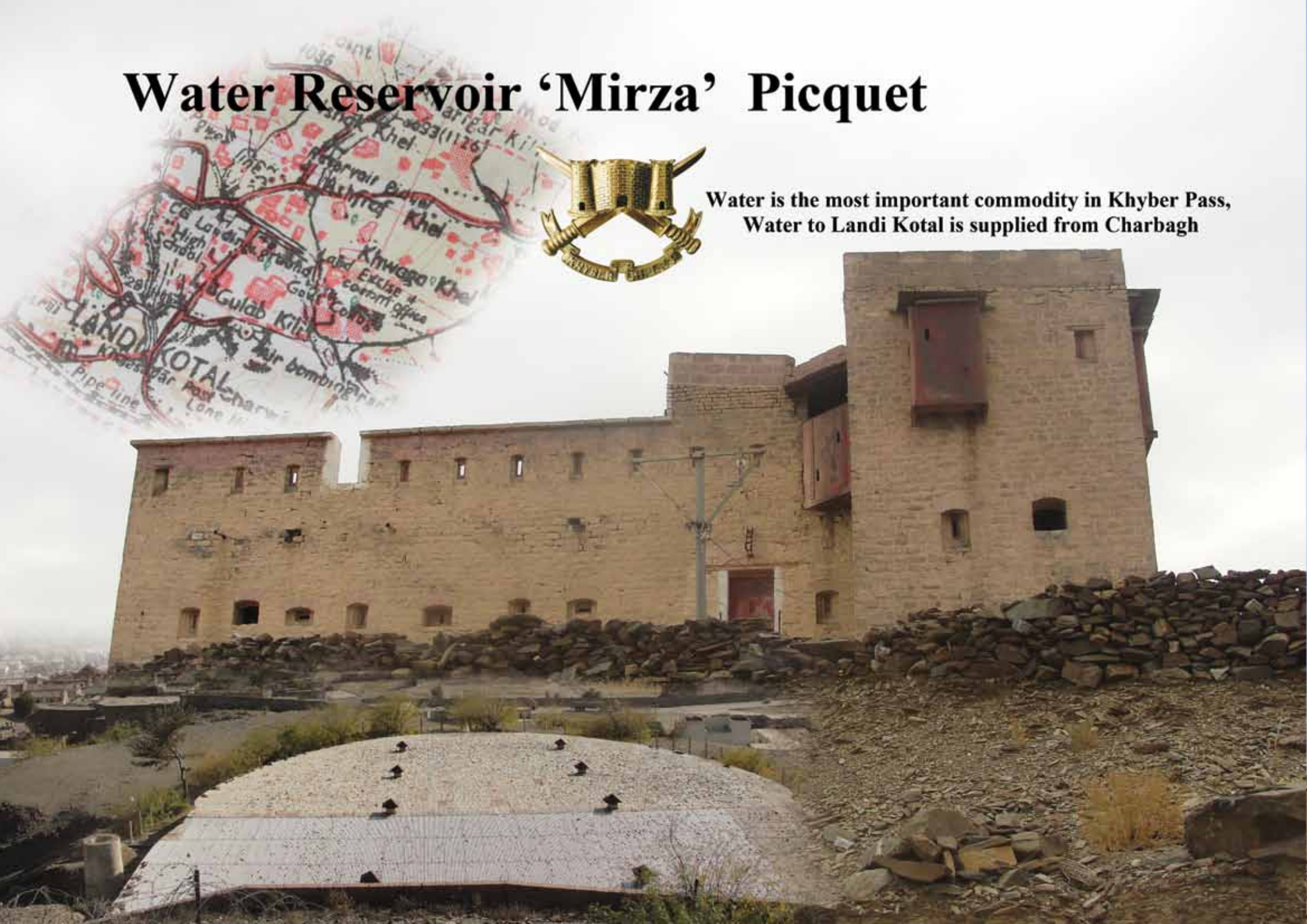
Down below is the **water reservoir** with two colours on its roof, one is meant for local population and other for the militia, the reservoir is divided from inside with a wall. The water bowser cost locals around Rupees fifty which is quite heavy on them. This post is in original condition as they have not constructed a cement stairs for ease.

While driving back, driver asked me whether I would like to see the **Landi Kotal Bazaar**, I agreed if it is in rules and protection is sufficient, he smiled and said the area is peaceful. We drove into bazaar, on the way I saw militia giving route protection, on inquiry I was informed that they

Water Reservoir 'Mirza' Picquet



Water is the most important commodity in Khyber Pass,
Water to Landi Kotal is supplied from Charbagh







Khongzi Picquet



Bazar Piquet





are for the safety of NATO containers, I noticed the absence of khassadars {tribal police} and driver guessed that may be it is Saturday and they are on holidays, but I did noticed them while we were coming towards the post. Bazaar all belongs to Shinwari. Taxis, shops of all kind less arms or they were not visible, petrol pump, publicity hoardings of mobile companies, hotels, fruit shops , one odd bakery, no beggars and no music in air. It looks too peaceful and commercial, more like Dir. Saw the old railway station and railway colony, the train service has been terminated after the floods of 2005 which swept away the tracks near Ali Masjid.

Later had a drive around the camp, saw a group of women and children most unusual sign and driver promptly told me that they are Christians mostly sweepers , in Tochi even these dare not venture out in such outfits. Paid a homage to the martyrs' monument of 7 Division, there is a brigade of army here as well but at the moment all its battalions less one is on deployment in different parts of the area. It is again unusual for a militia to have a regular army unit living beside it. The camp does not have a solid wall what they have cannot be called an effective wall. Only Mahsud Scouts have constructed a wall in these years, Colonel Janjua stands out among all commandants of Frontier Corps for his this deed. I talked about him with driver and he also agreed about Colonel Janjua because he had been at Fort Salop.

Chahar Bagh Fort

Chahar Bagh is a Persian word meaning Four Gardens, it is situated few miles towards west of Landi Kotal camp on the road leading to the Torkham. At Michni the diversion takes place towards Chahar Bagh. It took us not more than half an hour in a jeep to reach Chahar Bagh from camp.

We moved out at 1000 hours and sped pass the Landi Kotal town, I had the Hassan photographer with me and he proved to be of great assistance. The Pass starts descending and we after ten minutes reached a cross junction from where we took a left turn for Chahar Bagh. Being in Militia vehicle with guard gives you immense advantage, you can take shoots of the area, you are not stuck in any traffic jam , which occurs due to heavy long vehicles movement going and coming from Torkham. There are two lanes on pass now, one is used by the trucks and other for light vehicles, even Landi Kotal has a bypass. The No.5 Wing deployed at Chahar Bagh is being commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mushtaq of 36 Frontier Force. The road to Chahar Bagh is narrow but in good condition, I saw school boys wearing orange colour uniform which is very obvious, it seems that militia colour is not worn here in schools, other reason is that they are studying in private school that is why, other day I saw students in light blue colour uniform. I saw even girls going to school which is very unusual but by now I have a conviction that Landi Kotal is much more liberal than any other Pathan town astride Durand Line, other logic is that they all belong to Shinwari Tribe which by these proofs seem to be liberal.

Chahar Bagh is the most fertile area, in fact it supplies water to the Landi Kotal as well. I saw a field of corn , the very first such field in days, air pleasant, scenery refreshing, fear lifting off with every second and confidence level rising, no more fear of IEDs or ambush. After another ten minutes drive we were at Chahar Bagh, a fort constructed in 1926, a solid piece of stone with a small gate which hardly allows a small vehicle to pass through, inside a small courtyard with double storied building . The wing commander was there receiving me, I developed a liking for



him from the first moment. He took me upstairs, wooden stairs, yellow and red colour used freely, it is the wing colour. There was no electricity but it was pleasant. Area is peaceful with Shinwari tribe in majority, no crimes in the area, main issue is the responsibility of Torkham border checkpoint for which Mushtaq is wholly responsible certainly with commandant looking upon. He quoted an interesting incident where the Afghan national army {ANA} beaten the sweeper of the wing on which Mushtaq demanded an apology which was refused by the Afghans and in retaliation he {Mushtaq} just closed the border. The closing of border is an international issue but commandant stood behind Mushtaq and after a day the Afghans did offered an apology, in another incident over twenty Pakistanis were beaten by the Afghans inside their territory even when they showed their passport, Afghans simply torn these and threw in stream and telling them ‘to find them back at Attock’. Again border was closed and it resulted in a flag meeting after three days , with an apology the border was open again. I asked him about how jirga is convened and how it is conducted. His reply was that basically the maliks who are nominated by the political agent with as many four or five in one village, if anything of interest or grievance take place then the maliks do send message, Mushtaq understands their financial aspect as in his words ‘ not many maliks can even afford the fare to come to his headquarters’ thus he goes around, in other cases it can be a convening order from his side also.

In the jirga almost all maliks attend along with anyone else who wants to be there, normally they sit on ground with hand woven carpet laid along with cushions, or if they come to his office than chairs are offered. Normally either the elder malik starts proceeding or Mushtaq himself will open up highlighting the reason for the jirga. In one instance the complaint was from Shilman tribe as they have been suffering from the ban on the sale of fertilizers as they were being used in explosives also. Mushtaq resolved the matter by offering them one bag per farmer provided he brings a affidavit from the malik that this will not be used for any miscreant purpose. Mushtaq highlighted his point by stating that despite the break down of railway the tracks are still intact and not stolen because of these high moral grounds of keeping the words. Mushtaq had nothing but contempt for the Afghans, his words or feelings are the same which British also had regarding these Afghans in their time, thieves, liars and so on. I think majority of the traits attributed negatively about Afridi are in fact due to Afghans character and doing.

Tea break came in layers, all kind of meat dishes, mutton tikka, mutton chops, chicken, kebabs, chips, and so on. Then we move down and in an graceful ceremony put on the ranks turn by turn to the two scouts. It is certainly a great honour for me and a mile stone in the life of these, I could feel



School Children at Chahar Bagh



CHAR BAGH FORT

1926-1927



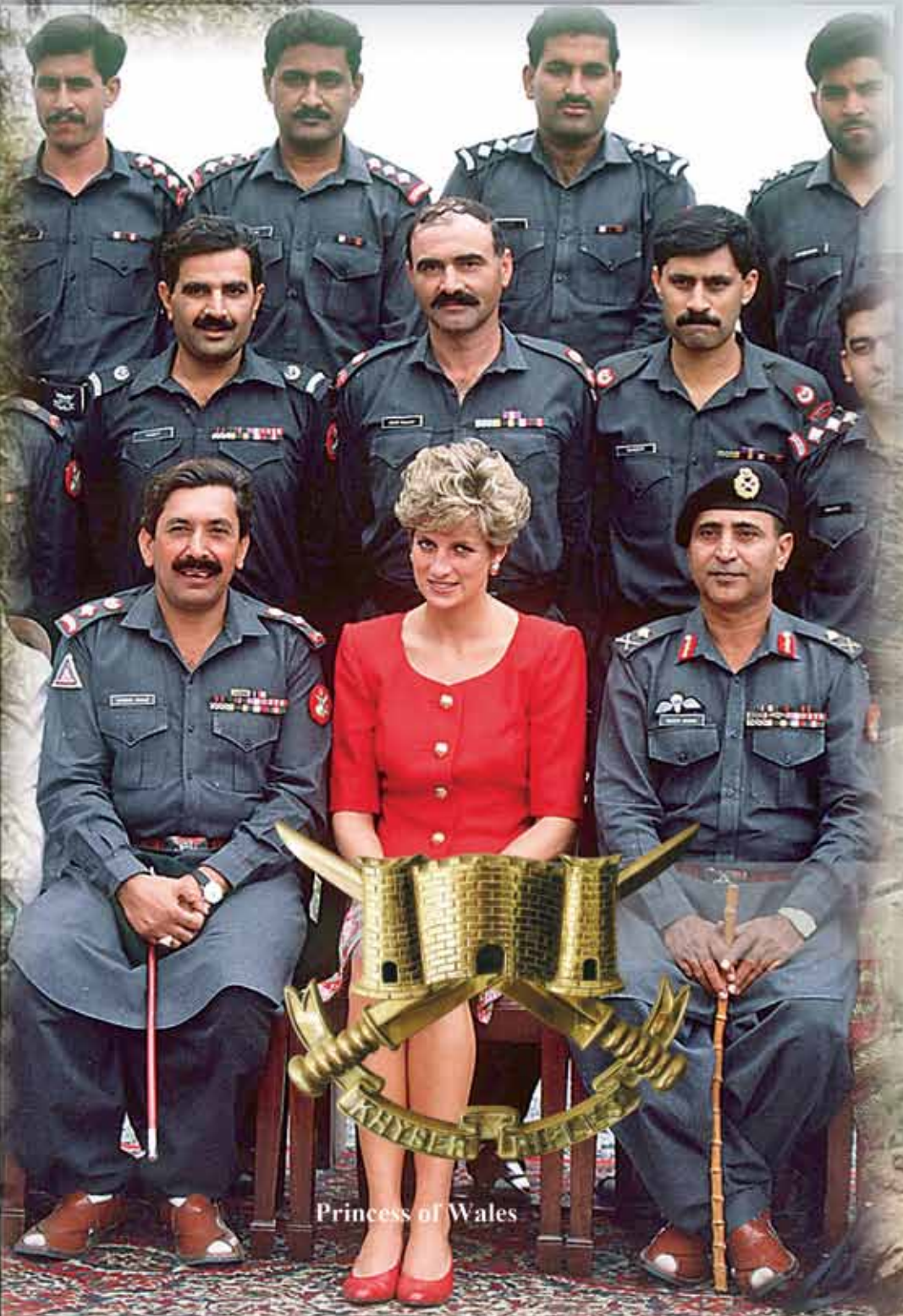
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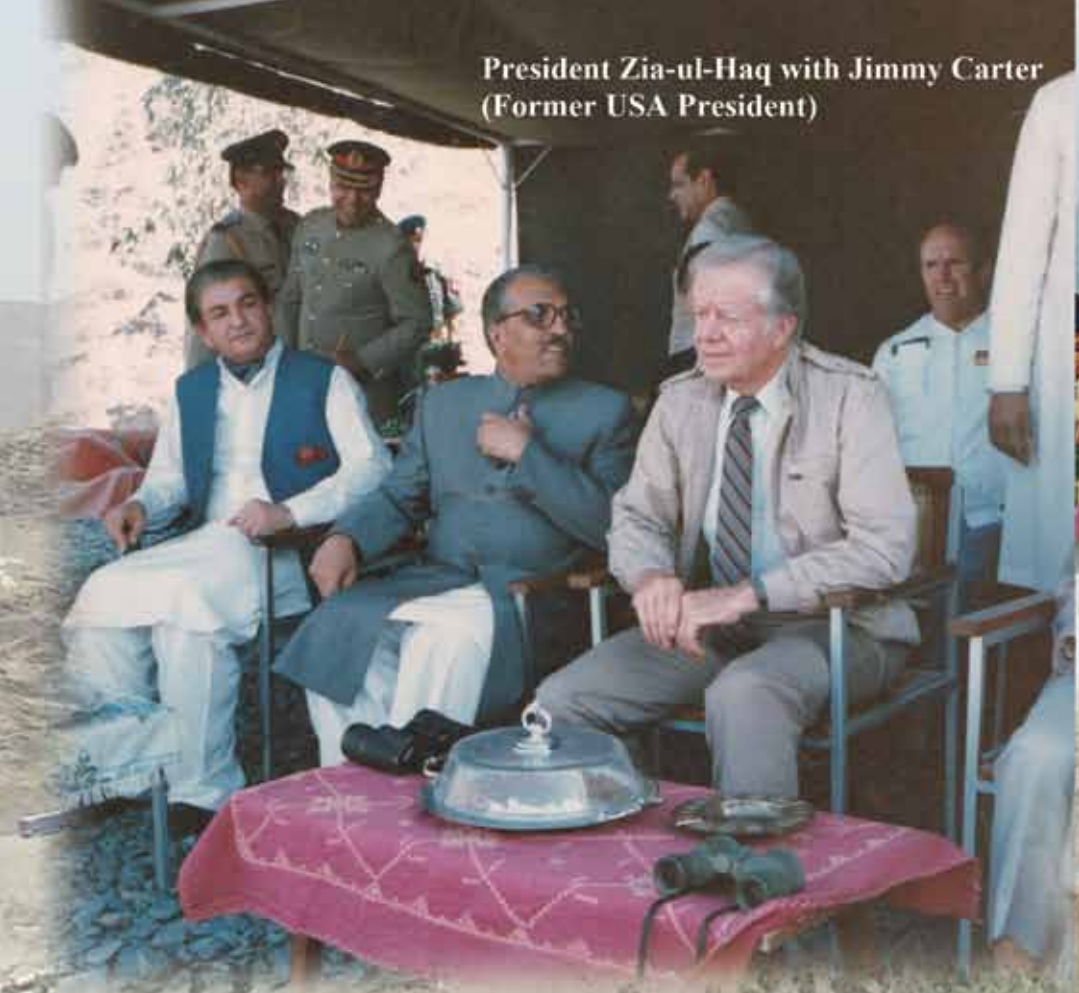
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Princess of Wales



President Zia-ul-Haq with Jimmy Carter
(Former USA President)



Pakistan Army Officers (Command & Staff College Quetta) study tour



Lieutenant General Ali Jan Orakzai (later Governor KPK) and Lieutenant General Farooq



American Air Force Generals



Sachin Tendulkar

British Chief of General Staff



Kabul

MICHNI POST

Welcome to Michni post. From here, you can have a panoramic view of the western end of Khyber Pass. On a clear day, Hindukush tops and River Kabul are also visible. Michni is 3600 feet above sea level.

On 13 Jan 1842, Surgeon Bryuden of the British Expeditionary Forces staggered into this post as the lone survivor to tell the poignant tale of the ill-fated British soldiers holding the Kabul residency.

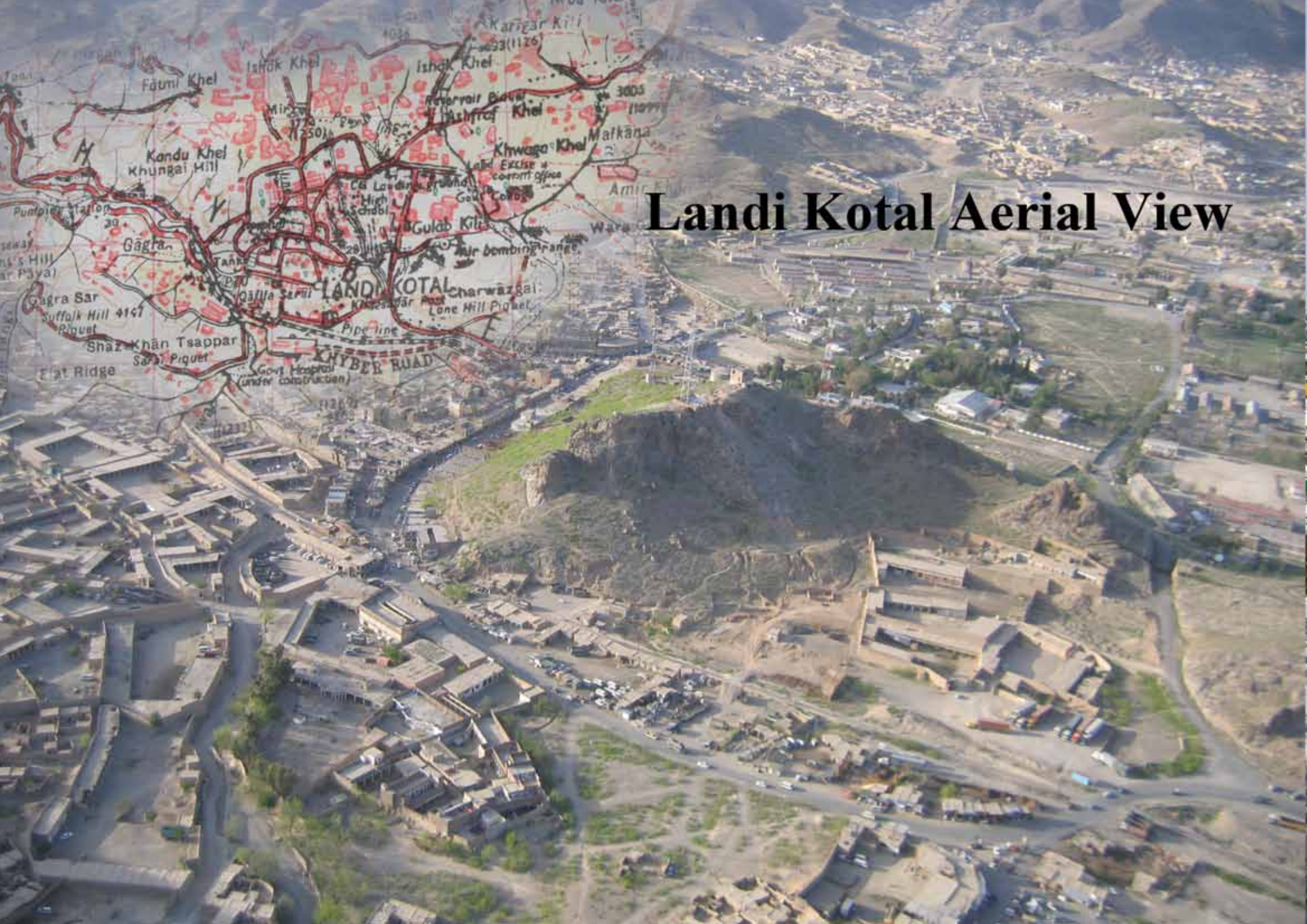
The Khyber Rifles, a unit of the Frontier Corps, guard this post since its inception.

Jalal Abad is 94 KM and Kabul is 225 KM from Michni post.

Torkham

Michni post





Landi Kotal Aerial View

Landi Kotal in Winter





that Mushtaq is particularly not happy with naib subedars promotion and told him so that it is because of my presence that he is getting ranks otherwise he might have to wait for another week. There were no less than a dozen garlands wrapped around havildar and only one was put around the naib subedar. We bid adieu to him, Lieutenant Colonel Mushtaq had already passed the instructions at Michni for my reception. We adopted the same route and soon join the main road. After another few minutes of drive we were at Michni Post.

Michni Piquet

Michni Piquet without any debate is the most famous post in the world {Check point Charlie came up much much later}, it is historical in a sense that it was constructed back in 1900, renovated many times the last one taking place in 2012, and every head of state who visits Pakistan is invariably brought here, delegations comes from all over world to feel the romance of Frontier. It is an old piquet which has been renovated with new outer look. The subedar in charge tried to take me to the briefing room which has a glass front panel with directions. I smilingly told him about the purpose of my visit and therefore we all walk inside the piquet. It is similar in size and design to Mirza Piquet or for that matter with any other piquet in Frontier of that era. The piquet constructed at that time falls into two broad categories in terms of capacity and size. This Michni Piquet falls into lesser category, inside wooden floor, thick walls, white in colour, feeble sun light, wooden stairs leading to upper deck. It was as if I am in my own regiment and not a visitor. The scouts were definitely having relaxed time, wearing their casual dress, I put them at ease and climbed up with these two host and Hassan. View from top is good, one can see all around. On the western side the Torkham was visible through a haze and cloud of mild dust kicked by the trucks. The pass in fact takes a turn here {pass has over 150 turns}, down below me was a khassadar check post, every truck is stopped here and money is taken by khassadar. It should not be taken as bribe rather these khassadar here comprised of three tribes, Shinwari, Shilman, Afridi and even Mullagori. There is no toll tax on Khyber Pass, one can leave his vehicle



Michni Piquet inside

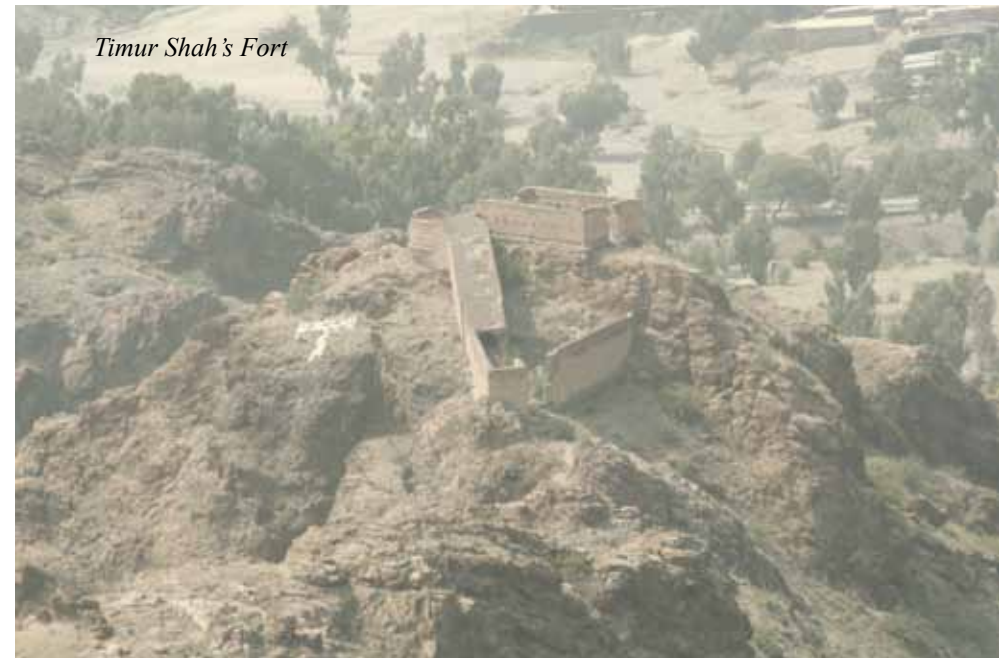


for even a week on any part of the pass and it will remain safe that is the duty of khassadar to keep peace in the area. Thus the money which they take from the trucks finances their own existence but more important it helps the tribe to build its financial resources which comes handy when a tribe has to pay a collective fine. I am reading about them, watching them in almost all part of the frontier and not even once in year and half of travelling I have found them ineffective or lacking courtesy. The windows of the Frontier Corps vehicles have dark shades even then a khassadar knows that an officer is travelling and he always invariably waves hand in respect or salute. Another plaque at Michni Post highlights the fact that Doctor Brydon walked into this post in January 1842 which again is a wrong perception because Brydon had walked into the Jalalabad garrison where Elizabeth Butler later captured the scene in her painting, the most talk about painting of the frontier till to date.

We left the Michni, waved to the khassadars and move towards the Torkham, the road here really is nothing more than a track of dust, the mountain itself are soft and there was a cloud of dust kicked by heavy trucks but driver drove fearlessly, everyone leaves the way for the militia vehicle. On the left down below the scenery is different with a green oasis with little trickle of water, the prison structure on the ridge that divides the water channel. Another few turns and we were on the plain ground heading for Torkham, one has heard of fish market but here it is truck market, all around heavy trucks with occasional sedans, on my inquiry that these have regular number plates I was informed that these are private taxis which ply between the Torkham and Peshawar. Reason for my inquisitiveness was the occasional glimpse of women inside the cars with partial veil.

Torkham

The road opens up soon and there was a traffic jam mainly due to trucks yet the khassadars kept some kind of discipline better than many traffic warden of many cities. These khassadar just cleared the road for us, there is a taxi stand, some shops, custom post. Typical border post, people mostly walking, rush, noise, heat, dust, air conditioner was on in the vehicle, it also had a tinted shade but I do wave at the khassadar which they very fondly replied, the NATO vehicles on board a trailer was too close to our small vehicle but we managed and finally entered the compound of our own. Very unusual arrangement here at border, our complex is open, neat, well organized and well maintained, a monument without any inscription stood in centre with well painted slogans on all sides. The layout is that originally the Durand Line was straight at least here, it is a kind of narrow pass, with high ridge on south with a water shed in the centre



Torkham

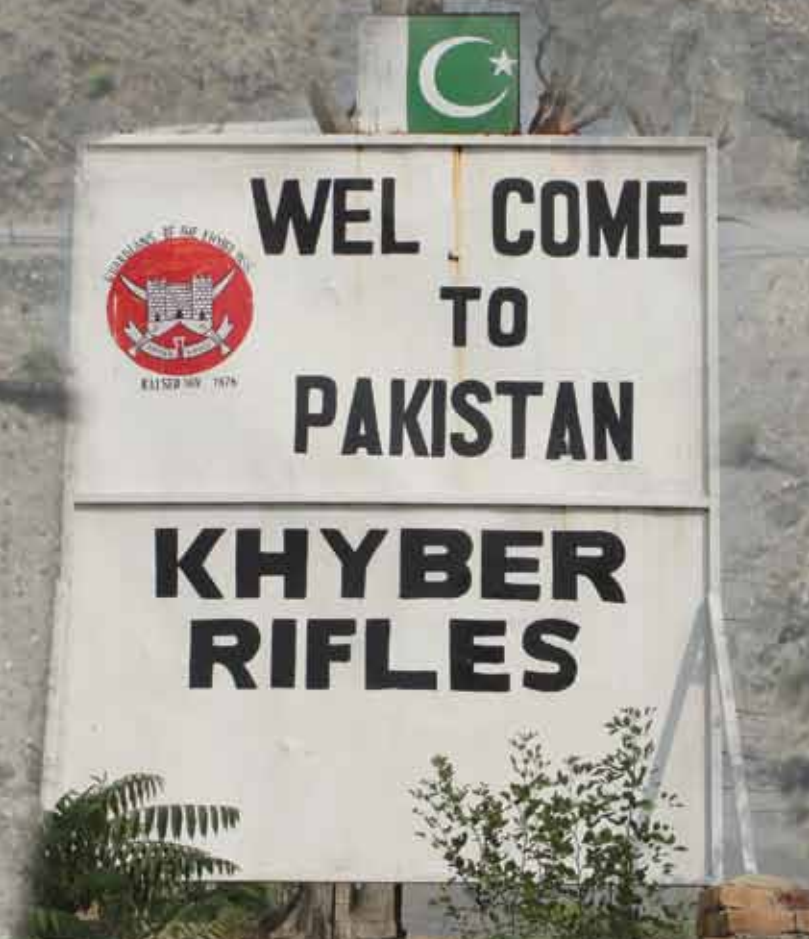
FRONTIER OF PAKISTAN
TRAVELLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PASS
THIS NOTICE BOARD
UNLESS THEY HAVE COMPLIED WITH
THE PASSPORT REGULATIONS

P34
J25

The image shows an aerial view of the Torkham border crossing. A historical black and white photograph is overlaid on the top left, showing a sign that reads "FRONTIER OF PAKISTAN" and "TRAVELLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PASS THIS NOTICE BOARD UNLESS THEY HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE PASSPORT REGULATIONS". Several men in military uniforms are standing next to the sign. Below the sign is a golden emblem. The background is an aerial view of the border area, showing a large parking lot filled with trucks and cars, and a map overlay on the bottom left showing the Torkham area with various locations like Tor Chund, Tor Kham, and Landi Khana.

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and that is the dividing line, however on ground the border has changed since 1894. In 1962, Pakistan & Afghanistan made a barter of land, Pakistan got area a mile inside Afghanistan at Torkham and Afghanistan got one post near Arandu in Chitral. Here on Afghan side there is no water and it is given by Pakistan, the Pakistani post at Torkham which now protrudes into Afghanistan is known as Ayub Post after FM Ayub Khan the President of Pakistan at that time. It is so unusual, from our compound a stair leads towards the west around the compound, with an iron grill around it, as you climb up the stairs the area on left is all Afghanistan, thus the zero line remains there and yet you are moving into the Afghan territory in a curved manner and after a kilometer the Ayub Post is reached which is perched at the end of the ridge, I did not went to the post but appreciated the efforts of our leaders who got it. I had a full view of the Afghan territory, a board showing Karzai, Daud and Zahir Shah was there, a well painted fort was also visible, a flag of Afghanistan was fluttering.

Border itself is nothing more than a chain which is raised at 2000 hours and down at 0600, the Afghan National Army troops wearing fatigue were manning there side, for pedestrians there is a side walk and everyone in checked by them and so is the case on our side where Khyber Rifles do the same. I did not saw any lady police to search the women they are generally allowed to pass by with just a visual scan. There are old trolleys pushed by hand with a capacity of two or three adults in it, it is being used as taxi for crossing of border for sick and women. Women coming from Afghanistan are generally more liberal in looks, I could see the eyes and faces, even one was not having any veil just a chaddar wrapped around her. There were two who were wearing shuttle cock burqa of light blue colour. There are professional women also who usually ply for smuggling but this is where the khassadar comes into force they exactly know who has what intention. I was taking pictures but I came to know that Afghans do not like their pictures being taken; everyone hates media. I was the odd man out with my dress, I sat with the khassadar, had a picture taken of them, and after some time we came back inside the compound. The habitat on the high ridge line is known as Killay and it has a history and story, General Zia have served in Khyber Rifles in 1954, his handiwal approached him when Zia became president and asked for electricity for his village, Zia not only provided electricity but also extended the road uptill his village. The Afghan side does not even have electricity rather they are on solar power, we are getting electricity from Peshawar through grid stations at Jamrud.

Had a lunch, subedar gave me some grapes in a bag and then after few pictures and lively talk we headed back through the same haze of traffic. Lot of trucks were standing for their turn of custom clearance, there are many cafes, for accommodation there are no hotels rather there are holes or caves in the adjoin hills which almost touches outer periphery of the Torkham, they are cold in summer thus drivers wait here. People comes from Jalalabad which is seventy odd kilometers away, Kabul is further 250 kilometers thus many Afghans prefer to have work, medical at Peshawar rather than at Kabul, thus a majority of them travel in private taxis from Torkham to Peshawar. Return journey was again interesting taking pictures and observing the railway tracks. Torkham is not more than ten miles away from Landi Kotal. On reaching Landi Kotal we stopped briefly at Landi Kotal railway station, for taking pictures I remained inside the vehicle and Hassan did the work. Soon khassadars came in, this is their beauty they reach the spot in minutes and invited us to tea but we just had a hand shake. There is a huge, large medical complex under construction at Landi Kotal, opposite the railway tracks work was going on, I saw board of lady doctors displayed on road as well.



‘*Teen Seeri*’ simple means three kilograms and here in Khyber Rifles it is use to point out the three kilogram mutton karhai. When I was leaving last time, at that time the account officer was fined one ‘teen seeri’ and today it was the turn of the medical officer. The karhai is bought from the ‘Alladin’ the most famous of Landi Kotal karhai makers, it cost rupees one thousand per kilogram. It is definitely delicious, tender and enjoyable, tomatoes were lacking as the price of them have gone to rupees 150/ per kilogram. I learnt that on week end no less than 50 such karahis are ordered by troops in Lndi Kotal apart from the numerous karhis which they cook themselves. A very lively gathering, full of jokes, laughs and so on. I must admit that I did not feel like having a meat dish at any other part of Frontier after my last visit of Khyber Rifles; they are too good in making meat especially the lamb dishes. Lieutenant Colonel Ijaz is from 14 Punjab Regiment and as such he is like an infantry officer, smiling, and taking the youngsters along. I enjoyed this lunch which was consumed at 1500 hours. Major Habib is the DQ, he is from 18 Horse and very meticulous, serious and efficient officer, right man for the correct appointment. Before lunch I sat for an hour in his office and observed his working. Issue was the register which are used by the guards and by the staff for ‘Sab acha’. It speaks volume for Major Habib, he phoned PC at Peshawar to find the most economical registers, he calculated the pages and divided them into days and then worked out the register required..

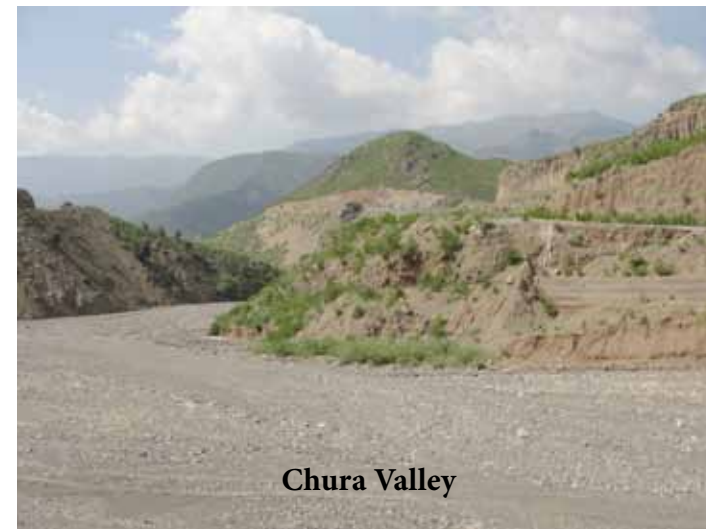
Zakkha Khel Bazar

On 29th July 2015, I was ready at 0800 hours and had a cup of tea in the mess lawn, waiting for the vehicle to arrive, I forgot to mention, that yesterday when I first entered the mess, I saw everyone in uniform and working on the lawn of mess, they were the cultural troupe members who for long used to spend the day wearing civilian dress and just sitting idle but now they were in uniform. The vehicle arrived a bit late, Major Haider, an officer of Khyber Rifles was also proceeding to Jaroobi, our first stop.

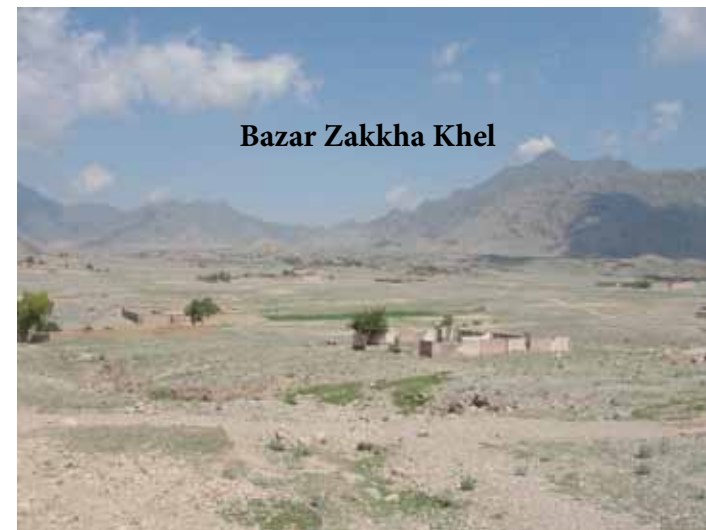
I found him an excellent officer, he is from 5 Punjab Regiment, served in Kashmir and at Lahore, also he served in Punjab Light Commando, very knowledgeable, positive in outlook and courteous, in nutshell an ideal officer. We drove towards Ali Masjid without any incident and from Ali Masjid took the turn, drove across the fjord, the bridge is under construction, now this was my first time in this direction thus quite an excitement., this is all Kuki Khel area, only few days ago I read in Colonel Warburton’s *Eighteen Years in Khyber* about how the Malik Din Khel got a piece of land here, how Zakkha Khel took the Afghan army to safety in 1878. Our first halt was at the Kandao {which means small water channel}, a new piquet cum small fort has been constructed, after few brief moments of stay we drove ahead. Track is metallic, small, broken but workable, from here the Malik Din Khel territory starts, weather remained good. Major Haider was my guide, occasionally adding something to my knowledge, the valley is called Chura Valley, it is narrow but green with hillocks, small fields cultivated with Charas, population is in small fortified villages, along the winding road, we waved to waving public, this waving is part of culture, it is a driver’s nod to the people and vice versa. I saw one child, blonde hair and blue eyes, fair colour, my first reaction was that he is an Aryan child, not every child is like him, majority are of dark complexion, it is rare. Drive or layout of valley is different from Kurram, which is wide, I would say it is more like Murree but bit more wide and less steep, few odd vehicles passed by. Soon we crossed Malik Din Khel and entered into Zakkha Khel territory, the end of every tribe’s territory is marked with a check post, manned by tribal levies.



Zakkha Khel Bazar, I have read so much about it that it was a relief to see it empirically, a wide plain with broken and waved pattern of fields, water is scarce here and is almost same situation in whole valley, we drove across the dry stony bed of the wide river which is dry even in this rainy season, saw children coming back from school, infact all schools have been destroyed by Mangal Bagh the miscreant, thus these children boys and girls were coming back after attending a lesson in mosque. Children from outlook looks poor and under nourish but happy. The layout of villages is on high ground, packed, mud and stone construction, with one dirty water pond and a small field having marijuana. The green charas field, the crop in this season is almost two feet high, trees are also scarce, saw two women walking with veil, the shuttle cock burqa is not worn here. We drove, and after half an hour we reached Zahid Gun Position, where vehicle of NADRA was also parked, the government is in process of making the national identification card of all the tribes, the vehicle is being provided with security by Khyber Rifles. A brief halt at the gun position, took few pictures, all around the fired artillery shells were stacked in a organised manner, the whole camp is established with firing cases and ammunition boxes, never seen such kind of display of brass shells. Enroute, I noticed the wooden pegs on the graves and inquired from Major Haider, who initially gave an answer but soon stopped the vehicle at next graveyard and we walked to it, our escort of four gunmen taking position, the local man, narrated that there are two kind of wooden pegs, the male graves have wooden pegs facing each other, where as the female graves have diagonal placing of wooden pegs. The graveyards are in every village, mud graves marked with stones and they have been preserved naturally for centuries. Those men who die in tribal wars are regarded in high esteem and their graves have black flags fluttering, other than their graves all other are void of any distinctive mark. Charas fields are the only green patches in otherwise barren landscape.



Chura Valley



Bazar Zakkha Khel

We reached Jarooobi, it is a new camp under construction, it will house a wing strength and is almost in its final phase. The local administration is also in process of constructing a tehsil headquarters and hospital at Zahid Gun position, the boundary wall is completed and work was in full swing, there is no electricity and no telephone in the area.

Jarobi

No.4 Wing is located at Jarooobi, one officer, Captain Kamal, came down to receive us, the officers living accommodation is in mud rooms with attached washroom, the small



patch at the top, protected with barbed wire is the office and living area of officers, few cranes and over a dozen pigeons add life and colour to camp life, few Chikoors, the pet of scouts are also here. Troops living accommodation is bit away from the officers complex. Lieutenant Colonel Amir Iqbal is the wing commander, he is from 39 Punjab, served as platoon commander in Pakistan Military Academy. From this point onward, I was alone, to proceed to Painsa China, where the No.3 Wing is deployed, thus myself and four gunmen, we drove towards the Painsa China, which is also in Zakkha Khel territory, on the northern bank of River Bara. Road is similar, but now more isolated, deserted, and narrow. Although, the area is now claimed to be free of Taliban and Mangal Bagh, but who knows, thus when the driver stopped the vehicle in the mid, in an isolated patch, where the road takes a bend, my all senses went on high alert, an ideal place for an ambush, driver just wanted to check the tyre pressure. We reached Painsa China, in the way, the driver and my second seater show me the Mirozai Sar which was a high point of action against the Mangal Bagh, we were in fact in Mangal Bagh territory as far as the terror is concerned, passed through a village and finally reached our destination.

Blue Moon at Painsa China

A classical camp, established in the vacant Zakkha Khel village, the whole village comprising ten odd houses is now under the control of wing, on a higher ground in another cluster of mud houses of same village is the brigade headquarters, my driver told me that this area is known as '10 Corps' among the locals and jawans. Wing Commander was on leave and Captain Jamal received me, he is a tall officer and I was surprised to know he is from Gwadar in Baluchistan, this is the result of wise policies, army's steps taken in last ten years; that men from remotest areas of Pakistan are now officers in army. Captain Jamal is in Khyber Rifles for two years tenure, presently, the officers especially the captains are also attached with Khyber Rifles for a duration of six months as well. I was given the room of the wing commander who was on leave. There is no electricity and neither the mobiles work here, as it was cloudy and occasional lightning thus the radio was also switched off. Only recently, three days before the Eid, a soldier while on sentry duty was struck with a lightning, he did not survive. I after a shower sat with the sentry and had a conversation, with young soldiers one has to take initiative in breaking the ice. I introduced myself and gave a background of my visit, which put them at ease. Later for hours, I had a lively discussion with these young men, they kept on rotating after two hours of sentry duty. They are simple, straight forward, highly courteous and highly responsible. They all had a option of joining other careers such as





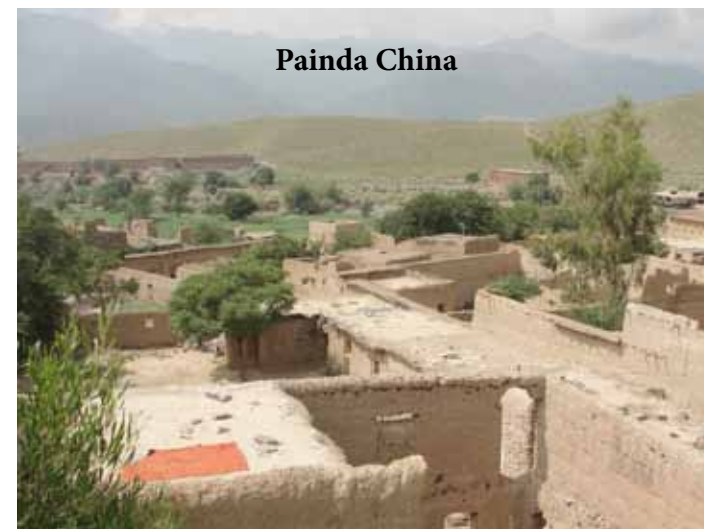
smuggling or becoming gangsters but the sense of responsibility towards their family, pride, education all combined together to bring them here and they are perfectly happy with their life and equally satisfied about their future.

Painda China is a mud built village, the pattern of houses is, that all the houses are infact big compounds, all interlinked with each other, within each compound, there are rooms, alleys, and small compounds. After walking through these compounds one realise why there are always so many casualties of law enforcing whenever they storm a village and compound. The whole Painda China comprises of three distinct compounds, each compound having ten or more mud compounds. There is an olive tree garden with old trees, the water stream or fountain is also at one end of this garden, thus here the water issue is not as serious as at other places, water is cold and sweet, above all it is an unending flow, the Khyber Rifles wing and the adjoining brigade headquarters all get water from here, brigade has laid a plastic pipe too. There are two shops as well which are still operating, rest all the population has left the village. Fields of Charas on the periphery were green and apart from them there is no other crop in the village. I had a walk in these fields, green leaves with occasional white flower , fields are much shorter in size as compared to a normal field in Punjab .

In the evening the brigade and Khyber Rifles religiously plays cricket in the vast open patch, a kilometer away from the village, cricket has almost replaced all other sports in the area, few children, there are one odd family {less women} who have stayed back mainly to look after the charas fields. Electricity is generated through own generators, three hours every day after sunset, there is a television set but I was not interested in it, later had a dinner with Captain Jamal, than sat outside in the compound, tonight it is Blue Moon { two full mon in a month}.

Mastak

In the morning, took group picture of the wing, there is an excitement about pictures among Militia, they are keen to have their pictures taken, after farewell we drove towards the Mastak. I was given a vehicle and an escort from Landi Kotal. The track is partially a road, partially a shingle track and major part is simply driving on mud ground. We were driving



Painda China



Mastak



towards east, on our left the mountain ridge, on our right down below is the River Bara, in good times it was a busy route but now other than us there was no vehicular movement, the area belongs to Zakkha Khel tribe. We passed through a village, the layout of the village is same as that of Paimda China but it had population, children playing in the lone water pond, overall poverty can be seen and feel, almost all children were without any footwear, dirty clothes, girls dress bit better wearing very colourful attire, males were conspicuously missing but grown up boys were sitting idle at few places, no electricity, no mobiles and whatever schools government had constructed in the past had been demolished by Mangal Bagh, I saw few of them astride the track. Water reservoirs have been built by government and villages are getting water from them through a central pipe. Children enthusiastically waved at our vehicle, they rushed towards our vehicle when we stopped momentarily for taking pictures, they asked for something, anything to be given. Later I bought sweets packets from one of the village shop to be distributed among children, Khyber Rifles and army units do distribute such items among these children, my escort narrated that in early days of campaign, these children would shout slogans in favour of Taliban whenever they saw our vehicle, but now, after years of distributing sweets and other sports items among them, they now cheer for us.

After an hour and half of drive we crossed River Bara, a wooden bridge is still intact, another modern bridge is under construction and likely to be completed by the end of year. The area astride the river is fertile and open, saw the maize and other crops, first of such kind other than charas. East of River Bara, ground opens up, some of the fierce fighting in 2014 took place at Mastak and adjoining areas, it was the markaz of Mangal Bagh, my escort showed me the mud caves and huts which were used by the insurgents for training and other activities. Area is open but void of any life other than stray dogs, it was cloudy, windy with occasional drizzling. The Mastak Fort is a mud square construction with an iron gate. It is small in size, barbed wire all around with a tent pitched outside the walls for night sentries, a sign of confidence on part of the fort. Wing Commander was on leave, a pure coincidence, Captain Zaman was the officer in charge, he is on six months attachment, officer is from 67 SP Regiment, a very fine and cultured officer. I went inside the fort, and then climbed up through wooden planks, always dangerous in my age, had a view of the surroundings, poor visibility restricted the view. Took the group pictures of the wing, had a tea break and then drove back towards the Jaroobi onwards to Landi Kotal.



Old Tree enroute to Mastak

We opted a different route which took us uphill through the mountains, pass through few villages, we now had the sweets thus distributed them where ever we saw children. Zakkha Khel tribe was manning the check posts, few young men carrying automatic rifles, a small hut, an iron chain acts as the barrier, these tribesmen were cold in their courtesy yet friendly, they did not like my taking pictures of them thus I discontinued it. Apparently



they seem to be an efficient outfit, all the children which we saw enroute acts as their informers, they have very strong intelligence network and can identify any alien roaming in their territory and can flush him out instantly. Khyber Rifles have constructed new permanent posts and piquets in the area on high grounds. Zakkha Khel wears a headgear which is colourful and resemble Sindhi cap in design and colours, they keep extra ordinary long hair, even teenage boys have same style. Very few of them have blue eyes, by and large they are having brown skin, less religious in outlook as the number of mosques I counted all along are in single figure.

After a brief stay at Jaroobi we drove onwards towards Ali Masjid, it was now evening and as such saw the Zakkha Khel Bazar and its life at sunset, few boys and men playing cricket almost in every village, men sitting idle outside their compounds all without any weapon, goats roaming around, village shops being the centre of some activity, the men waved at us and we waved at them, it is not necessary that one should wait for the natives to wave first, it is a custom of the area and it certainly generates good will. There are apprehensions among the natives and also among many other regarding the forthcoming enlightenment in the area in the form of electricity. The core issue is the values, modern media has no morality or obligation towards society, money making is its sole aim and as such they air programmes which are in conflict with customs and traditions, and in the end it leads to violence. Media creates a mind set in which these tribes are portrayed as savages who are not allowing progress in the area or in the tribe; on the contrary these tribes are well mannered but they have a different life style, in America, even today, the Mennonites do not send their children to schools, do not use any kind of mechanical transport, they travel in horse carriage, have no electricity or television in their homes, their women wear only traditional dress covering their face and head; they are not living in any isolated area rather in the heart of cities like Philadelphia and Harrisonburg.

Ali Masjid 5th August 2015, 1845 hours

Sitting in the verandah facing northward, sun is about to set, Maghrib prayers yet to be offered, air is fill with the trucks noise, here it does not sounds as irritating as in Lahore, Karachi or any city, in between the bleat of goat, chirping of unknown bird and the laughter of militia. It is a historical fort, a historical site and for long it had captured my and many others imagination. In 1989, one of my course mate at aviation school had narrated that at Ali Masjid there is an annual festival of hashish smoking, how far is it true, I have to check. No.5 rather 105 Wing Khyber Rifles is at present in fort, wing commander Lieutenant Colonel Maqsood is on leave, I had a talk with him on phone, yes here mobile works, Telenor has strong signals and Jazz a bit weak. I left Landi Kotal at around 1600 hours and it hardly takes fifteen minutes to reach here but for me it was a leisure drive, thus I requested Driver Havildar Bangash to drive slowly, there are three gunmen also, one a Yousafzai, one a Mahsud and one from Haripur but enrolled on Yousafzai quota. Journey was comfortable, a hot day, long line of trucks on the side of road, the road at Torkham is under construction thus these heavy vehicles are allowed to cross at night only, it is the reason of continuous noise of wheels and cranking of parts which is filling the air. I was keen to see which is the narrowest part of Khyber Pass and I am pretty sure that gorge down the eastern side of Fort is the narrowest part, it is owned by Malik Din Khel tribe. Enroute, I stopped at few places to take pictures, every time the vehicle stops these gunmen just jump out and take position all around. I came to know through the driver that two days ago frontier works organisation {FWO} which is making and constructing the road, its one



soldier was shot dead by the Malik Din Khels, the reason, he was having an affair with a local girl, the girl was also shot dead; Love is an expensive and dangerous affair in this part of world.

At this point and time, life is almost stand still at fort, few soldiers are sitting at the northern portion of fort, just chatting, few are walking with a lota in hand, two are sitting on charpoy staring at the southern part of Khyber, towards the Peshawar city. The trucks noise is constant, no break. The Sheesha Piquet is visible, it is the first piquet on northern edge, having visual link with the lone piquet at Landi Kotal, in old days the communication was through the glass and mirror signals thus the name Sheesha Piquet. The Jinn Piquet, which is on the western edge, next to fort, is still unoccupied because of the myth that jinn or devil lives and occupy it, tomorrow I have the intention of visiting it.

Occasionally a waft of breeze gives refreshing feeling to the body, I have taken my shirt off as it is hot and humid, on my right, the northern-eastern side, there is a wall of a mountain, the depth perception is such that there is no feeling of having a road down below, the wall is not steep, but it is quite difficult; the things which I consider difficult may not be that gigantic a task for a native. At Ali Masjid, I saw the first man wearing a turban, and driver by now knowing what I am looking at, stop the vehicle, first checked that the old man is a genuine Afridi or a Muhajir, he turned out to be a Kuki Khel Afridi of 69 years age, looked older than his age, he was happy to have a shot taken of him, he was looking forward of having a picture taken with me, but as I had only DSLR camera thus it was not feasible. In the stream, men and boys were having a bath, picnic and washing the car. There is no electricity at Fort, although the electric poles are running very close to it, the light comes occasionally, the wing has its own generator which operates after Maghrib till 2200 hours. Daily, water is brought through a bowser, the old pipe lines and the water pump at Ali Masjid are non functional since long and it seems that as if none is qualified enough to rectify the fault.

Yesterday, in the evening, I had a sitting with Colonel Tariq, in the mess lawn, he highlighted among many things, the effort he is taking and putting in resolving the water issue, now every day in Sub Acha report the level of water at Water Reservoir or Mirza is given. He further narrated that, DQ is always keeping an eye on the water level in reservoir, he went on leave, the acting DQ was not aware of the consequences and as such when the water level dropped to two feet only then the commandant became aware of it, from then onwards the water level has become part of all OK report. Khyber Rifles are trying to get additional water from Said Killay, which is six kilometers east of Landi Kotal, basically it is army water source but Khyber Rifles are in an exercise to get ten thousand liters of water from it. It should be kept in mind that army and Khyber Rifles both have different sources of water and distribution. Khyber Rifles is getting water from Charbagh, the water flows downward to Landi Khanna, from where through pump the water is sucked upward and at Tangi, short of Michni another pump is installed which now pumps the water to Landi Kotal camp. The reservoir at Mirza holds half a million litres of water, the daily scale of water is 28 litres per day, with the 300 odd families living in Landi Kotal {Khyber Rifles alone} the requirement is quite and supply is less. The actual Water Reservoir Piquet, does not have any dedicated water reservoir, rather a swimming pool but it is without water. The water issue can be resolved as per commandant's own words but it requires almost 20 million rupees. It is now maghrib prayer time, the clouds are low and it seems as if it will rain, it has been raining for last one week less last two days, the breeze is definitely giving the good feeling of rain, the mosquitoes are also now present. The accommodation here at fort is scarce, the mess portion where I am sitting is wing commander residence and the guest room or more properly 'mahman khanna' is down below.



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Under ground Ali Masjid Hospital



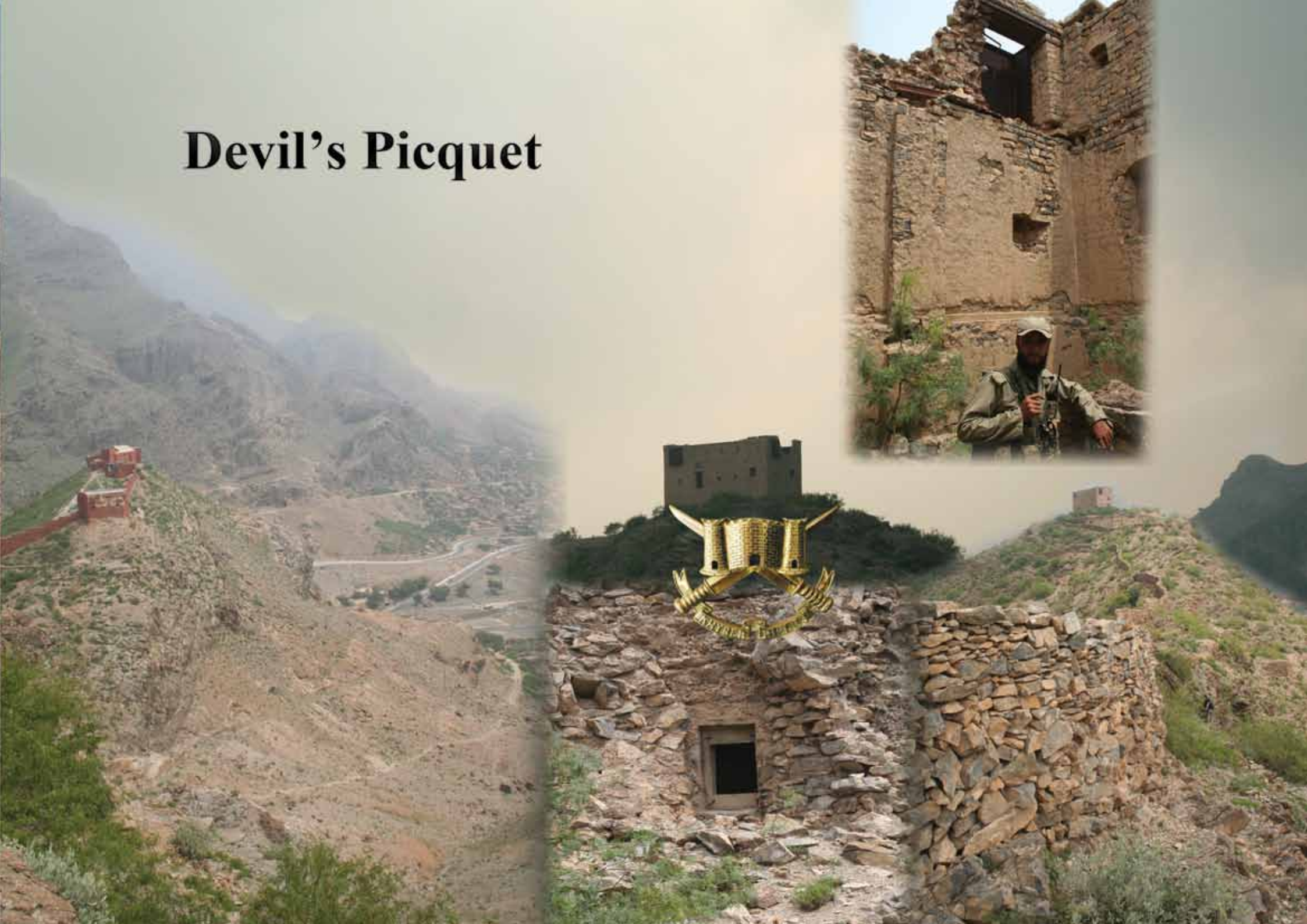
GHAKHAYBERRIFILES
JASJID FORT
1878





Zakkha Khel Village & a tribal boy, they all keep long hair and wear peculiar head gear

Devil's Picquet





Guest room of Ali Masjid is one of the most pleasant surprise which one can have at the fort, from outside it seems as another pillbox, but inside it is well decorated with bed and television, as I mentioned earlier there is very little electricity at Ali Masjid, thus standing fan with battery are provided in guest room. At time of year it is still hot at night. Around midnight, I just came out and sat on a chair, I observed flashlights being beamed all around, there seems to be an urgency in air, as the wing commander was on leave thus a feeling of anxiety and apprehension as what is about to happen, after an hour, I saw the main culprit; a calf has been missing and all these flashlights were for him, there is a saying in army as well in Militia 'nawa kata khul gaya hai' which signifies any futile work and tonight I saw its real implication.

Khyber Rifles Ali Masjid Fort was constructed in 1927, it is on the saddle overlooking Ali Masjid mosque and the small valley on the east. There are two piquets at Ali Masjid the eastern piquet overlook the east and the western piquet has a much smaller view as the pass it self is at its narrowest band, however the important water source and the area on west remains under observation. Both piquets are of identical pattern and size which is rectangular in pattern, three storied solid piece of stone, mud, iron and wood complex. In 1942 the wall was erected on the southern edge of the saddle thus making the complex as a fort, on the northern edge is the road and stream almost 1500 feet below. Area is rough, mountainous, with green shrubs which are of no use other than giving a green colour, shade and camouflage, no fruit trees. Stones, rocks are of solid in nature, the most obvious is the 'Chaqmaq' which when strikes together produces spark. Originally there was no motor able track leading to the fort from Ali Masjid; it was an equitation oriented piquet complex. It was important in every sense because it was overhead the place where most gruesome massacre of Sikh battalions took place twice between 1837-1839, in the past similar history is orally traded. Importance is in the strategic location of the Ali Masjid; other tracks which originates from Landi Kotal and follows Chora valley and the track coming from Tirah Valley joins here. Thus for the caravans moving towards the west in medieval ages this place was important; abundance of water at Ali Masjid is another key factor, it is still providing water to Shagai and Jamrud Forts since 1878. The very first Sikh venture under illustrious Hari Singh Nalwa in April 1837 was mainly a push by the Nalwa to secure water for the Jamrud Fort. Kuki Khel a clan of Afridi lives and control the pass along with water source.

Ali Masjid name and mystique comprises of few segments, the village itself is on the east of the Khyber Rifles Fort in the open bowl, the Khyber-Torkham, railway line have its railway station here too. The mosque which has given the whole valley its present name is at the foothill of the Fort, the history of Ali Masjid is oral in nature which rely upon the presence of Hazarat Ali in the area, most likely the place became popular during Mahmud of Ghazna reign, and even before this era, the lone historical evidence is the Buddhist stupa which is on the west of Ali Masjid mosque. A close observation of the adjoining hills highlights the unmistakable remnants of old fortifications, one particular such hillock is located north west of western piquet.

The Ali Masjid fort went a major expansion in 1942 when the underground bunkers were constructed, they are presently used as hospital but they were never meant for this purpose originally. The hospital is a marvel of originality, hard work and engineering. It is practically bomb proof and is the one of its kind on Frontier. It is almost fifty feet deep and inside the mountain, almost twenty odd feet in width and 150 feet in length. There are no outlets for fresh air neither for any kind of light, rooms are small and without any door, more of operation room of an army than that of medical profession.



Another myth of Ali Masjid fort is the western watch tower which is almost an hour walk from the main complex because of broken ground, it was constructed in the same time period as the underground bunker. The myth started in 1983 when the sentries posted at the watch tower started creating rumors about the 'Jin' and soon it became so established a fact that sentries one night simply ran away from the watchtower complaining of being hit with stones by the Jins. The watch tower was abandoned and even few rounds of mortar were fired on it by the wing itself to dispel the thoughts of it being occupied by extra terrestrial creatures. Till 2013 the fort was not under regular occupation since 2007 because of deployment at other sectors and now No.3 Wing is in process of establishing its headquarters thus the old myths have surfaced again for which both commandant and wing commander have decided to visit the watchtower themselves but it is an interesting myth. Water shortage had been a major source of all disasters in past, within the fort there is a central water storage having a capacity of over 80,000 gallons and half a dozen more water tanks with lesser quantity hold. Weather is fine in summer but cold in winter which is further aggravated by the strong winds which blows all the time as the fort stands at the junction of various valleys. Electricity load shedding is another factor which makes living in isolation even more obvious, however the solar panels are a new invention and troops are making the best use of it by having small panels for mobile charging.

Shagai Fort

Shagai Fort was constructed in 1927 at the eastern edge of the village Ali Masjid on a higher plateau overlooking the railway station and the whole valley, it was constructed as an army fort and till to date it has always been under occupation of army regiments. It is a diamond shape structure complex, constructed with brick and iron, having over fifty feet high walls with five watch towers which can operate independently also, water storage is outside the walls of fort but within fire shot of sentries. The western lands adjacent to fort is utilised as the firing range and sports ground. There is a swimming pool and squash court apart from tennis court inside the fort. Fort have two storied construction, all in all 104 rooms are available for living accommodation with each room sufficient enough for section strength of force. The fort construction primarily follows the Drosh Fort construction design in which firing bays are incorporated within the living quarters. The other unique feature of construction is the circular roof, a sentry can walk all around the fort roof. Shagai Fort and Ali Masjid Forts are in line of sight to each other with two more piquets along the axis, Shagai also have two more watchtowers, one in the north and other in the east. Presently it is the rear headquarters of Schwebo Battalion.

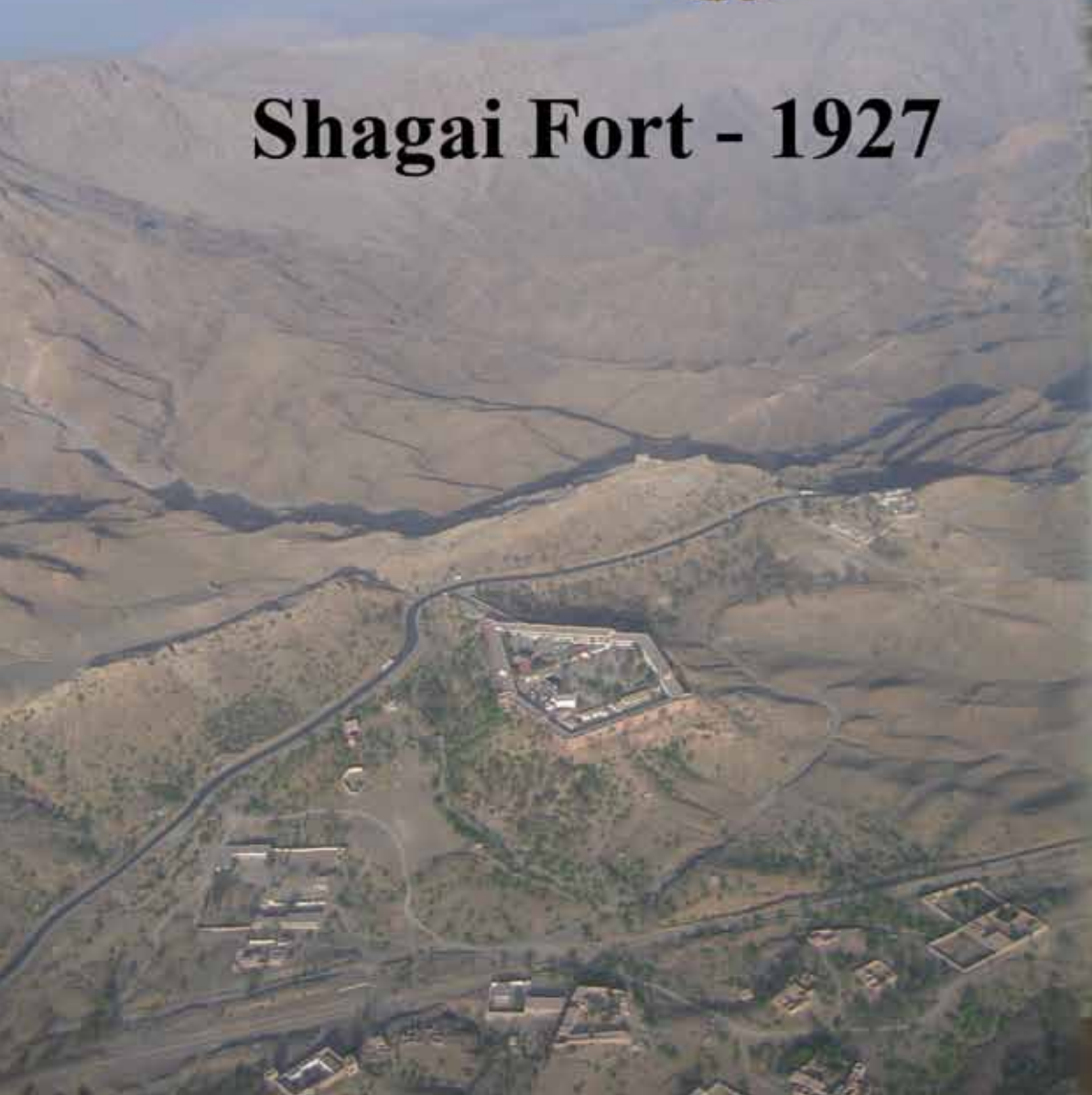
Shagai importance lies in the fact that it controls the Tirah Valley route and act as reserve to any event which spills out of Khyber Rifles control.

Jamrud Fort

Jamrud Fort is one of the oldest fort in the Khyber Rifles area of operations, Khyber Pass starts or terminates at Jamrud depending upon whether one is moving eastward or westward. There are two forts at Jamrud, old and original fort is presently located on the eastern side of the road Peshawar-Kabul and the smaller fort is on the western side of the road. The original fort is under the army use and the Khyber Rifles wing occupies the rather new fortified complex which in reality cannot be termed as a fort.



Shagai Fort - 1927







Hari Singh Nalwa completed the construction of forts that included Jamrud, Peshawar and Shab Qadar. Jamrud was under command of Maha Singh with a strength of 600 Sikh and Muslims troops, where as Shab Qadar was placed under command Lehna Singh Sandhawala with 1900 troops.⁸⁸ Layout and construction of Jamrud Fort is almost a replica of Bala Hisar of Peshawar only it is small in circumference. Constructed with mud bricks which still are in use with supplement of stone bricks. Undoubtedly the fort stands today in almost the same fashion as it was in 1837, the grand wooden gate is still in use so is the water well which is 400 feet deep. Jamrud thus stands as the last frontier fort of the Sikhs protecting Peshawar and also the Lahore Darbar from the invasion route of millenniums; Khyber Pass.

Jamrud Fort was popularly known as ‘Hari Nalwa Fort’ after the Sikh general who not only completed it but also took his last breaths here on 30th April 1837. The very room in which Nalwa spent last days of his life, is the top of the fort and after his death the news was hidden from the soldiers due to morale factor and for three days the dead body of Nalwa used to be propped on the window to keep the troops morale high and intact. In 1892 a Samadhi was constructed in the memory of Nalwa.

Jamrud Fort or Nalwa Fort provides excellent all round observation as far as eye can see, it was important because it kept a check on the Afghans attempt to recapture Peshawar, presently it is still vital for the maintenance of peace and order in the area. Fort now encompasses almost whole area and land in the north uptill the Jamrud railway station, a wall has been erected around the complex which was completed in 2009. Firing range, sports ground and troops married accommodation which in the past were outside the main fort are now within the walled complex. One infantry battalion remains in occupation of the fort and it helps also in its maintenance and uplift. Fort has five cordons each separated by a gate and area becomes narrow and narrow as it moves inward and upward ; ultimately at the top which is almost 300 feet higher than the ground level there are only a compound of five rooms at the top which in the past was the residence of the fort commander.

31st July 1879, Jamrud Fort, ‘I reached Jamrud Fort in the evening and met Major Hastings, who had come down from Landi Kotal early that morning. I had not been inside the fort since my one visit some years ago...but what a change was now going on !. In every direction officer’s quarters and barracks were being put up with lightning rapidity... heat in the verandah as we had our evening meal was something to be remembered, early next morning we rode to Ali Masjid, had lunch and in the afternoon journeyed on to Landi Kotal, which was reached about 6 p.m. August 1, 1879.’⁸⁹



Jamrud Fort inside

⁸⁸ Khushwant Singh, *Ranjit Singh Maharaja of the Punjab* {Penguin, 1962, Delhi}, p189.



7th August 2015, 1800 hours, 'I reached Jamrud Fort in forty five minutes from Landi Kotal camp, the road is now complete and preparations are underway for its inauguration by prime minister on independence day. The feeling now is as if one is having a pleasure drive, road is well marked, broad and without any disruption. Vehicles are now plying at night also, of the old scenes, the Bedford Rocket bus is the only survivor, none I saw today was wearing any weapon, had a cup of tea in Jamrud Fort, weather is fine, fort is undergoing renovation'.

Khyber Rifles Jamrud Fort

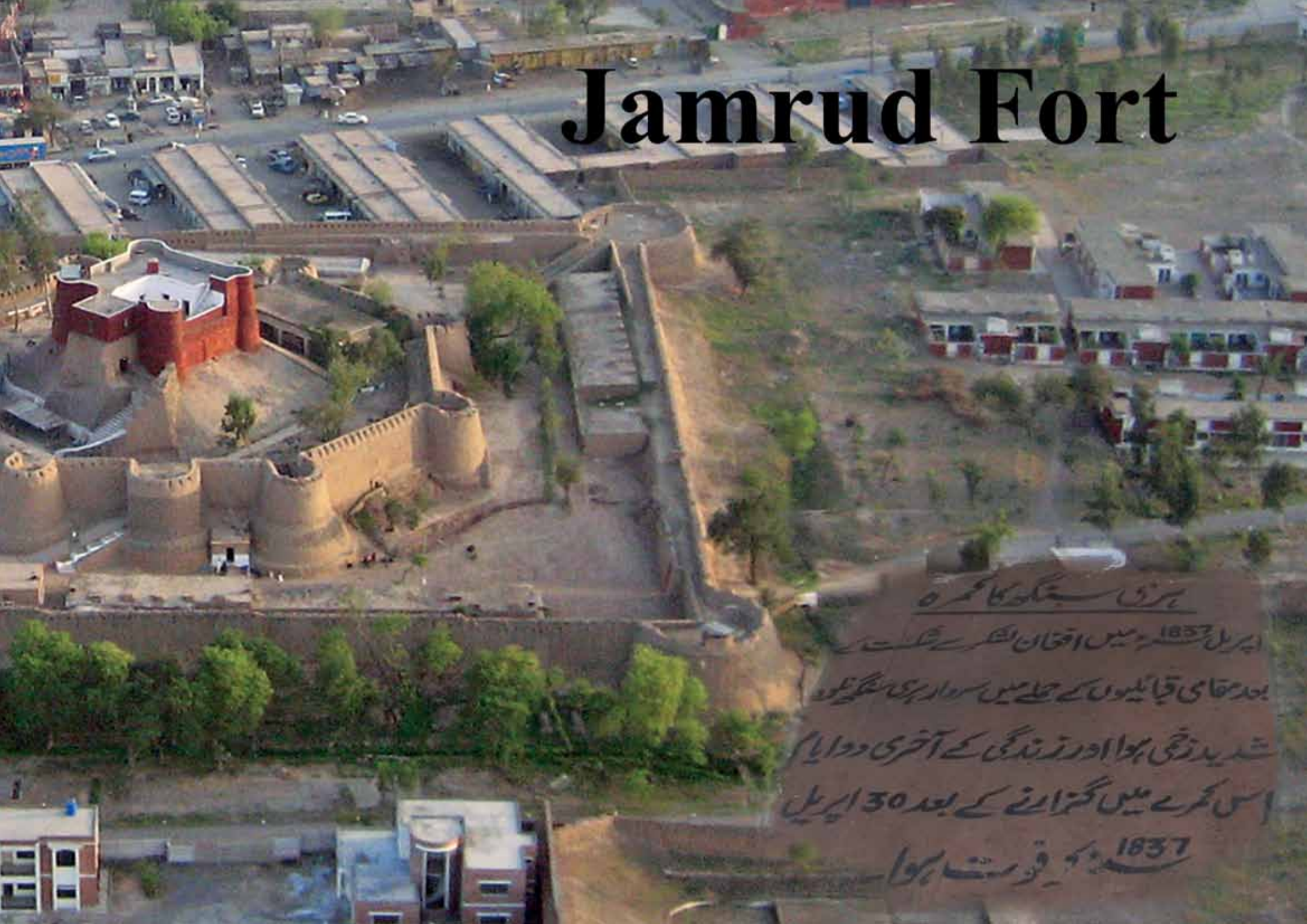
The other fort , smaller in size was constructed in 1944 opposite the main Nalwa Fort, it is flat in nature with open compound having double storied accommodation on three sides with office on the remaining end. With the passage of time it kept on expanding and now houses the political administration offices in the adjacent land, it used to be the wing headquarters as well but now one company is stationed. As recently as on 13th November 2013, the Khyber Rifles successfully conducted an operation against the group of kidnappers hiding in the Jamrud area from this fort; it was a successful. operation.



کنواں

جمہور و قلعہ کا قادی کنواں جس کی گہرائی
تقریباً 400 میٹر ہے۔ روایات کے
مطابق کنویں کو پانی کی ضروریات
پورے کرنے کے علاوہ بحسروں کو
پیمانی لگاتے کیلئے بھی استعمال کیا جاتا تھا۔

Jamrud Fort



ہری سنگھ کا گھر

اپریل 1837ء میں افغان لشکر سے شکست

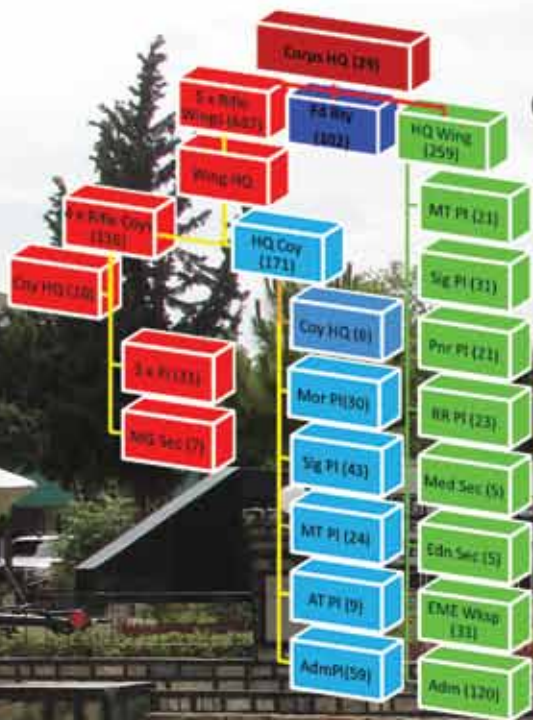
بعد مقامی قبائلیوں کے حملے میں سردار ہری سنگھ کی

شدید زخمی ہوا اور زندگی کے آخری دوا یا

اس گھر میں گھڑا کرنے کے بعد 30 اپریل

1837ء کو فوت ہوا۔

Chapter VI



TORZAN



Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim with recruits of Khyber Rifles 1964



RAZA SHAH, SON OF
KING OF IRAN -INSTALLED
HONORARY COLONEL OF
KHYBER RIFLES





شہدائے ون ونگ خیبر رائفلز

نایک اکرم خان

نایک جان محمد

لانس نایک بہاولپور

لانس نایک زیت اللہ

لانس نایک شہرز خان

لانس نایک انور سادات

لانس نایک حاجی محمد

لانس نایک اکرم خان

سپاہی قادر نواز

سپاہی مستاجان

سپاہی اسحاق خان

سپاہی یار باز خان

سپاہی عارف خان

سپاہی خیر احمد



FOLLOWING COMMANDERS				
KR				
NO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	DATE
1	MAJ	ALTAF HUSSAIN SHAH	ARTY	6.11.96
2	MAJ	KHALID OBEID	4PUNJAB	1.12.96
3	MAJ	SHAFIQ URREHMAN	SIGS	15.2.97
4	MAJ	WASIM IQBAL	15AK	21.1.97
5	MAJ	KHALID OBEID	4PUNJAB	16.10.97
6	MAJ	M. FAMIL CHAUDHRY	23BALT	16.2.98
7	LTCOL	M. TARIQ KHAN KTK	36FP	11.11.98
8	LTCOL	M. MAQSOOD AKBER KIYANI	16PR	8.9.99
9	MAJ	ATTA ULLAH KHAN	15SIND	29.10.99
10	MAJ	ABID REHMAN	FP	31.12.99
11	LTCOL	M. TARIQ KHAN KTK	36FP	7.12.00
12	LTCOL	LAL MUSTAFA PSC-g	ARTY	5.1.01
13	MAJ	NASIR ALI	127MED AP	14.9.01
14	MAJ	KHURAM KHURSHID	28CAV	16.11.01
15	MAJ	SHAHEEN GONDAL	6SIND	29.7.02
16	MAJ	SYED AZHAR H RIZVI	52MED AD	24.1.03
17	MAJ	MUHAMMAD IMRAN ASLAM	60BR	18.5.03
18	MAJ	MUHAMMAD IQBAL	ARTY	25.2.04
19	MAJ	SHAHID NAWAZ	PR	14.4.04
20	LTCOL	AFTAB AHMED GHAFRI	FP	1.4.05
21	LTCOL	ASIM AHMED PSC	BR	1.9.06
22	LTCOL	ZULFIQAR ABBASI PSC	BR	5.12.06
23	LTCOL	SAADAT IQBAL LSC	ARTY	5.10.10
24	LTCOL	RAEES KHAN KHATTAK	34FP	20.1.11
25	LTCOL	IFTIKHAR ASLAM PSC	AC	19.4.11
26	LTCOL	SHAHZAD MUNIR PSC	BR	16.9.13
27	LTCOL	MUHAMMAD TOUFIQUE	ARTY	1.1.15



2 WING

SHAHANAI

Yaqub



COMD

BASE

OP-3

OP-1

2WING SM

Khazana
Ghand

NO	RANK	NAME	TRIBE	DATE
1	SM	MISAL SHAH	OZI	1.5.99
2	SM	ANWAR KHAN	AFD	31.10.2001
3	SM	RAZA KHAN	AFD	31.10.03
4	SM	M WALI	AFD	1.11.05
5	SM	ZARBAD SHAH	AFD	13.8.06
6	LT	ZARBAD SHAH	AFD	14.8.09
7	SM	SAID WALI	WZR	17.1.01
8	SM	NIQAB SHAH	KTK	1.5.012
9	SM	ANWAR KHAN	BNG	26.12.013
10	SM	M SAJJAD	AFD	14.5.014

Jale Sar

Gurgural

SHAHEED SOLDERS 2WING KR

SR	RANK	NAME	TRIBE	D.O.B	SHAHADAT	LOC OF SHAHADAT	NAME OF
502015	LINK	HAMIDALI	ENG	23.6.07		MIR ALI	ALMIZAN
504029	SEP	SAEED KHAM YZI		23.6.07		MIR ALI	ALMIZAN
504390	SEP	TANWEER	BNG	23.6.07		MIR ALI	ALMIZAN
504485	LINK	AMANULLAH	AFD	18.10.07		LKL	TORTHANDA
504032	SEP	GUL FEROS YZI		18.5.09		SWAT	ALMIZAN
504441	SEP	MENBOOB	AFD	4.6.09		BUNER	TORTHANDA
504090	SEP	NOOR ULLAH MGI		4.6.09		BUNER	TORTHANDA
506208	SEP	ABDUL HAMID MSD		17.7.09		BUNER	TORTHANDA
503942	LINK	QASIM AHAM MSD		17.8.09		BUNER	TORTHANDA
504805	SEP	YAK MOHD	AFD	13.9.09		BARA	BIADARALAM
504258	LINK	IKHTISHAM YZI		13.9.09		BARA	BIADARALAM
504091	SEP	SAFAID	MGI	13.9.09		BARA	BIADARALAM
504782	SEP	SABIR MOHD	BNG	3.10.09		BARA	BIADARALAM

Shagh
Bala

REDESIGNATED AS 102 W KR

SR	RK	NAME	ARM/SVC	DATE	CHINAR
1	MAJ	M NAUMAN SALEEM	142AD	1.8.14	
2	MAJ	FEROZE IQBAL MALIK	18SIND	25.8.14	
3	LTCOL	M ASIF YASIN CHEEMA	ARTY	25.5.15	GHUND

Shahid

OP SAR

S/ SO

N/PQT

MICHNI

TALAB-2

Torkhar





3 WING COMMANDERS

NO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	DATE
1	MAJ	KHURAM GULZAR	PR	APR 1988
2	MAJ	MUHAMMAD IFAZ	PR	AUG 1988
3	CAPT	MUHAMMAD YOUSAF	FF	MAR 1989
4	MAJ	MAMIR SULTAN	AD	NOV 1989
5	MAJ	NAEEM ULLAH KHAN	PR	JAN 1992
6	MAJ	ISHFAQ ULLAH KHAN	BR	FEB 1993
7	MAJ	DAIS MUHAMMAD	AK	NOV 1993
8	MAJ	AZHAR ALI ARRAE	PR	DEC 1994
9	MAJ	ALTAF HUSSAN SHAH	21Med Hvy	1995
10	MAJ	KHALID MAHMOOD	38C	APR 1996
11	CAPT	M. AKHTER MALIK	41FP	AUG 1996
12	MAJ	TARIQ JAN	BR	OCT 1996
13	MAJ	SHAIKAT MANSOOR	TF	JAN 1997
14	MAJ	RASHARAT MEHMOOD	26BR	NOV 1997
15	LTCOL	M. MASOOD KIANI	PR	APR 1998
16	LTCOL	M. TARIQ KHAN	FF	SEP 1999
17	MAJ	M. ARIF MALIK	BR	DEC 1999
18	MAJ	MUHAMMAD ASHRAF	AK	FEB 2001
19	LTCOL	LAL MUSTAPA	ARTY	SEP 2001
20	LTCOL	MISRAH ULLAH	FF	NOV 2002
21	MAJ	IMRAN RANA	ASU	MAY 2003
22	MAJ	M. HUMAYUN	AC	DEC 2003
23	MAJ	M. IMRAN ASLAM	4NLI	MAR 2005
24	MAJ	M. ABBAS	SR	JUN 2005
25	LTCOL	M. MUZAHIR Psc	6L	SEP 2006
26	LTCOL	ADIF RAOUF Psc, Psc	AD	OCT 2008
27	LTCOL	RAJA MASOOD ASLAM	11PK	AUG 2009
28	LTCOL	KHURSHID AHMAD Psc, Jsc	26BR	AUG 2010
29	LTCOL	EJAZ MAHMOOD Isc	PR	SEP 2012

REDESIGNATED AS 103 WING KR

30	LTCOL	EJAZ MAHMOOD Isc	PR	SEP 2014
	LTCOL	MUHAMMAD SADIQ Psc, Jsc	ARTY	SEP 2014

3 WING

NO	RANK	NAME	TRIBE	DATE
1	SM	QIBLA KHAN	MSD	1.8.05
2	SM	ITBAR KHAN	OZ I	1.8.06
3	SM	GUL BADAN	AFD	28.10.10
4	SM	HIRAT	MGI	2.4.12
5	SM	ALAM KHEL	AFD	2.12.14

SM







4 WING

SNO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	DATE
1	MAJ	JAVID ISLAM MIRZA	AK	25.2.87
2	MAJ	M. IFAZ	BR	6.10.87
3	MAJ	SYED ADNAN SHAH	PF	7.8.88
4	MAJ	JAVID IQBAL	PR	26.12.88
5	MAJ	IKRAM UL HAQ	PR	21.6.89
6	MAJ	IKRAM ULLAH KHAN	SH	11.11.89
7	MAJ	TAHIR HUSSAIN BNG	FF	6.4.91
8	CAPT	SAJID ANWAR	BR	18.8.92
9	MAJ	M. TAHIR	SIG	20.3.93
10	CAPT	NOOR AHMAD MALIK	PR	1.9.93
11	MAJ	AZHAR ALI ARBAF	PR	1.9.94
12	MAJ	MAQBOOL ASHIQ	107FD	11.12.94
13	CAPT	ZAHID NADEEM	PR	17.1.95
14	CAPT	M. KHAN	BR	6.4.95
15	MAJ	SHOUKAT MANSOOR	FF	21.7.95
16	MAJ	SHAFIQ-UR-REHMAN	SIG	20.9.95
17	MAJ	FAYAZ AHMAD	48FF	12.1.96
18	MAJ	HITSHAM-UL-HAQ	AK	19.10.96
19	MAJ	FAYAZ AHMAD	48FF	12.1.96
20	MAJ	AYUB SARWAR	45BR	6.11.97
21	MAJ	FARID ULLAH KHAN	SIG	10.3.98
22	MAJ	ATTA ULLAH KHAN	15SIND	11.10.99
23	LT.COL	TARIQ KTK	36FF	26.11.99
24	MAJ	ATTA ULLAH KHAN	15SIND	8.6.2000
25	MAJ	NASIR ALI	AIR DEP	7.11.2000
26	MAJ	ZAHID R-UL-HAQ	48 FF	14.9.01
27	LT.COL	MUHAMMAD IQBAL	ARTY	15.3.02
28	LT.COL	MISBA ULLAH KHAN	FF	21.5.03
29	MAJ	MUHAMMAD IMRAN ASLAM	60BR	23.8.04
30	MAJ	OSCAR SAMUEL	ARTY	26.4.04
31	MAJ	M. AMIE IQBAL DAR	27BR	9.5.05
32	MAJ	SHAHID NAWAZ	PR	13.1.06
33	MAJ	WAHEED AKHTER	AK	9.3.06
34	MAJ	MIRZA SHAHID BAIG	47FF	12.3.06
35	MAJ	SHAHID HUSSAIN AHM	AK	20.6.07
36	MAJ	ZAHID ALI	ARTY	10.12.07
37	MAJ	HAMID AFZAL QAMMAR	ARTY	30.4.08
38	MAJ	MUHAMMAD ABBAS	SIND	5.7.08
39	MAJ	TARIQ MAJEED ISC	24FF	4.5.09
40	MAJ	S.UMAR FAROOQ HUSSAIN	44AK	18.4.10
41	MAJ	INAM GUL	ARTY	1.1.12
42	MAJ	SYED AHMAD RAZA	ARTY	24.6.12
43	LT.COL	MUHAMMAD AMMAR HUSSAIN	77PD	1.10.12
44	LT.COL	AAMIR IQBAL, PSC, 95L	39PR	8.8.14



WING COMMANDERS

44/5/105
RAISED IN FEB 1986

NO	RANK	NAME	ARM	DATE
1	MAJ	GORDON MAHABAT KHAN	FF	26 AUG 86
2	MAJ	SYED AZMA BADSHA	AC	23 MAY 87
3	MAJ	IKRAM ULLAH BABAR	ARTY	22 JUN 89
4	MAJ	ALI AHMED KHAN	FF	01 NOV 91
5	MAJ	MUZAMIL AHMED	AC	02 NOV 92
6	CAPT	MUHAMMAD RASHID	AC	03 MAY 92
7	CAPT	AMJID ALI KHAQ	AC	15 AUG 94
8	MAJ	IHTESHAM UL HAQ	FF	10 SEP 95
9	MAJ	SHAUQAT JAN	BR	20 OCT 96
10	MAJ	TARIQ UR REHMAN	SIG	05 JAN 97
11	MAJ	SHAFIQ HUSSAIN SHAH	ARTY	28 APR 97
12	MAJ	SHAFIQ HUSSAIN SHAH	PR	27 JUN 97
13	MAJ	ALITAF HUSSAIN KHAN	FD	23 JAN 98
14	MAJ	ALITAF HUSSAIN KHAN	PR	10 MAY 98
15	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AK	08 SEP 99
16	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	FF	13 DEC 99
17	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	FF	08 JUN 00
18	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	ASC	03 NOV 00
19	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AC	14 SEP 01
20	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	SIND	25 APR 02
21	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	BR	18 JAN 03
22	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	28 MAR 03
23	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	BR	09 JUN 03
24	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	ASC	01 JAN 04
25	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	19 JUL 04
26	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	ASC	19 FEB 05
27	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	11 JUL 05
28	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	BR	25 JUN 07
29	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	ARTY	26 JUN 07
30	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	CAV	11 JAN 08
31	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	17 JUL 08
32	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	13 NOV 09
33	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	22 NOV 09
34	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	PR	04 SEP 10
35	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	CAV	21 DEC 11
36	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	AD	06 NOV 12
37	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN	FF	
38	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
39	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
40	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
41	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
42	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
43	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
44	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
45	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
46	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
47	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
48	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
49	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
50	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
51	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
52	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
53	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
54	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
55	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
56	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
57	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
58	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
59	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		
60	MAJ	SHAKEEL APZAL KHAN		

KHYBER RIFLES

5 WING

SUB MAJOR

S/N°	NAME	TRIBE	FROM	TO
01	HIKMAT SHAH	AFD	01.11.03	09.10.05
02	SAID FAQIR JAN	MMD	10.10.05	01.10.09
03	IJAZ ULLAH	KTK	01.5.10	01.10.10
04	MIR GHAFAR	WZR	08.9.10	01.12.11
05	HAIDER ULLAH	KTK	02.12.11	07.03.13
06	IHSAN URREHMAN	KTK	08.03.13	

WING COMMANDERS

44/5/105W

RAISED IN FEB 1986

NO	RANK	NAME	ARM	DATE
105	WING			
39	LTCOL	MAQSOOD ANWAR BHATTI	AK	12 SEP 14



DASHING TORZ BTY COMDS

NO	RANK	NAME	UNIT
1	MAJ	SMIF ULLAH SHAKIR	16SP
2	MAJ	SYED AHMED RAZA	139SP
3	MAJ	MUHAMMAD IMRAN	200MED
4	MAJ	SYED SUKAR HAIDER	5PR
5	CAPT	SARDAR AAMIR KABIR	137MED





AN

DATE
AUG 2007
OCT 2012
AUG 2014
MAR 2015
MAY 2015

Khyber Rifles Field Artillery



Mechanical Transport





MTO KR

NO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	FROM	TO
01	CAPT	ZULFIQAR HAIDAR	HSIND	24.4.02	29.11.02
02	CAPT	SHAFIULLAH KHAN	8FF	30.11.02	22.9.03
03	CAPT	SHAHID KHURSHID	6BR	23.9.03	5.12.04
04	CAPT	NADEEM SHAHZAD	14L	15.2.05	24.5.05
05	CAPT	HASEEB HAYAT KHAN	26FD	25.5.05	10.7.07
06	MAJ	SHAHID HUSSAIN	29AK	16.1.08	9.4.08
07	MAJ	FAHEEM ASLAM	ARTY	9.4.08	1.10.08
08	MAJ	GEALAM ABBASS	2AK	2.10.08	17.8.09
09	MAJ	REHMAN TAHIR	ARTY	18.7.08	9.4.10
10	MAJ	KASHIF EHTSHAM	32AC	9.10.10	16.10.11
11	MAJ	TARIQ MAJEED	42FF	17.10.11	28.12.11
12	MAJ	FAROOQ ZAMAN	56C	28.12.11	19.10.12
13	MAJ	HABIB ULLAH KHAN	AC	19.10.12	8.9.13
14	MAJ	SHAH FAISAL PIRI	AC	9.9.13	21.7.14
15	MAJ	ALI JAWWAD KHAN	AC	22.7.14	



MT JCO



S.NO	RANK	NAME	TRIBE	FORM	TO
1	SUB.	MINADAR	SMI	20.5.80	22.2.87
2	SUB.	QAMAR GUL	AFD	23.2.87	16.2.90
3	SUB.	AYUB KHAN	AFD	17.2.90	19.5.93
4	SUB.	MUHD AYUB	AFD	20.5.93	29.12.96
5	SUB.	MASHAL JAN	KTK	30.12.96	28.2.99
6	SUB.	SHAH JAMAL	SMI	1.3.99	27.1.2000
7	SUB.	BAKHTI REHMAN	MMD	28.1.2000	15.6.2001
8	SUB.	MUMTAZ KHAN	YZI	16.6.2001	27.11.2002
9	SUB.	BAKHTA JAN	MGI	28.11.2002	18.3.2004
10	SUB.	YAD WALI	SMI	19.3.2004	24.2.2006
11	SUB.	M JAMIL	AFD	25.2.2006	17.11.2011
12	SUB.	SAHIB GUL	MGI	18.11.2011	6.1.2013
13	N/SUB.	MASTANAKBER OZI		7.1.2013	



Medical Platoon



Signal Platoon



KHYBER RIFLES		
CORPS SUPT		
S N	NAME	FROM TO
01	SAIFULLAH KHAN	5.12.97 23.4.99
02	ABDUL AZIZ KHAN	24.4.99 10.5.01
03	ABDUL QADEER SHAH	11.5.01 31.8.01
04	MALIK NOOR HUSSAIN	1.9.01 28.2.03
05	DIN MUHAMMAD	1.3.03 30.7.05
06	MEHRDIN	31.7.05 31.7.07
07	MAWIZ KHAN	1.8.07 31.12.07
08	MUHAMMAD YOUSAF	1.1.08 3.2.11
09	ABDUL MANAN	4.2.11







VISITORS BOOK



DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
14 Oct 81	General M. ZIA-UL HAQ	President of Pakistan
21 Nov 81	GC Tariq Khaw 64 1/2 TIPU COY	P.M.A. Rawal

Diana

September: 26th

1991

VISITORS

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	REMARKS
14 Oct 81 1926 hrs	Nargant Thelton Dai Thelton	10, Downing Street London.	A truly wonderful day

PAKISTAN
NAME

1926 1984/190012	QASIM ZIA	1926 1984/190012
SHAH ALI KHAN	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
Khalid Hamid	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
MOINUDDIN	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
Rashid-ul-Hassan	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
ASHTIAD AHMED	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
NASIR ALI	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
ZAFAR ALI	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
ZAFARI Mungu	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
LAJWARD SALEEM	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
Saleem Shehrazad	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
NAFEM AKHTAR	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012
MUHAMMAD	1926 1984/190012	1926 1984/190012

REMARKS

118

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

4. XI. 1981

Kenan EVREN

Head of state of Turkey

26.11.81

Fu. G. Mustafa Kitan

officers mess
Rush.

5 OCT 2002

LT GEN H W NTARO CWO

DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL
DEFENCE COLLEGE KENYA
COURSE OS-2002 ("NOW FRONTIERS")
PO BOX 24381 NAIROBI



We enjoyed visiting the Frontier
Regiment Kyber Rifles. The
Regiment is highly professional
and motivated.
Good!

ATB

NAME

ADDRESS

REFERENCE

12

On behalf of the Philippine Delegation,
Philippine Government and Filipino people,
we pay to the great warriors of
history -- the Kyber Rifles!

Marubhay / Best wishes !!

[Signature]
President of the Philippines

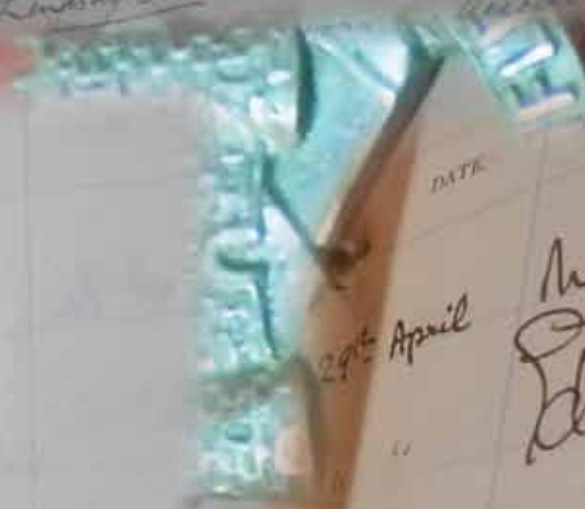
General Arthur Macarthur - 1906

General Arthur Macarthur - 1906

S. F. Lloyd.

Ack upon Ack many
afew after Ack.
To your letter saying
Hampden & Morris London Eng.
Warrington Oxford
your thanks
your General Thanks
Sincerely
Respecting
! Maxwell Robinson.
G. I. Lindsay Jones

DATE	NAME
June 59	Mr. Geo. Balcaster in Room
June 59	Brig. Genl. Muzaffar
June 59	27. Col. Hugh R. Gilchrist
June 59	Mr. Samuel Goldstein
June 59	MAJ. GRADY W. DEMANDSRO
July 59	Bagdadi. Bashir Ighal
July 59	Maj. J. Saman Pak.
July 59	Maj. P.



NAM

4

Handwritten
Elvina M. M.

Pamela Hountbatter

the May Col. C. R. Mountbatten 1948

lieut. Bruckner

15. 4. 48

Exe 7 Sw

USMAAG CHQ RAWAN

Cont 100 Indep Amend B

HO. Posh. L J C S

Summa
of Bulwer

Add Travel

10th

[illegible]

DATE

NAME

日本国 陸上自衛隊
陸上幕僚長
陸将 森 勉子
幸子
平成 18 年 3 月 12 日

[illegible]

REMARKS

祝中巴兩年友誼
萬古长青！

WISH THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
CHINESE & PAKISTAN MILITARY
A LONG LIFE !!!

over
 Major General Ian Lyall Grant 6 St Martin's Square, Chichester, UK. A wonderful experience and welcome after 65 years.
 Jan Lynn Grant Bible High Commissioner to London
 Thanks for hospitality & find the bunker built by my father in 1940.

54
 J. D. Dando
 NAME ADDRESS REMARKS
 17 April 1995 Sargysen Demirel Cankaya - Ankara Turkey Haykalin Kalmamasi leri selam ve sevgiler

DATE NAME ADDRESS
 Feb. 21st '98
 Dipendra B. B. Shah NEPAL
 R. H. Braun



13 April 92 M. J. ...
 23 April 92 Lt-Gen D. M. Chibber (Retd) 36 R (Frontier Force) B-29, Defence Colony New Delhi-26
 A very happy trip. My father's house is a story.

日本国 陸上自衛隊
 陸上幕僚長
 陸将 森 勉
 幸子

平成 18 年 3 月 12 日

DATE NAME ADDRESS
 19-9-2004 Genl A. O. OGOMUDIA CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES
 I deeply appreciate the very warm reception for me and my delegation. May I therefore commend the IGFC for the excellent brief and preservation of the Hyder Pass as a great historical landmark to the entire members of the Frontier Corps.

NAME ADDRESS
 A. 日本国 自衛隊
 統合幕僚会議議長
 先崎 一

12 March 2001 Kofi A. Annan

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

DA 14 March 2001 Vice Admiral Charles H. Brown, Jr.

COMMANDER, US FIFTH FLEET

15 March 2001 Ratnasiri Wickrematunge

Temple Trees, Colombo

18 March 2001 Jean-Pierre Cousseran

Ministère de la Défense Paris

4 March 2001 Graciano Pereira

REMARKS

POZOSTAJĘ POD WRAŻENIEM
GOŚCINNOŚCI. DZIĘKUJĘ ZA
ZAPROZNIANIE NAS Z HISTORIA
I KULTURĄ REGIONU.

REMARKS

に友好
関係促進
のため

DATE 14 March 2001 NAME General John P. Abizaid

ADDRESS Commander, US Central Command

REMARKS

It was a great honor to
open the day with one
of the world's greatest
generals! Thank you
for your hospitality and
counselship.

ADDRESS

NAME
Lt. Al Naeem Chems

ADDRESS
25 Army Aviation Squadron
Technical (Corp) (Ea 102.60)

Than Emba
Staff Col

any other

ation Ann

1000 Lances (warsons Horse)

5 May 2005

NAME
General Sir Mike Jackson

ADDRESS
Chief of the General Staff
British Army

I have always wanted to visit the Khyber Pass - and at last I have done so.
I am most grateful to the Khyber Rifles for your warm and splendid
hospitality and welcome.

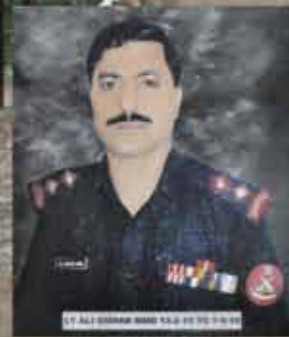
Mike Jackson

KHYBER SUBEDAR

RIFLES MAJOR

S/NO	NAME	TRIBE	FROM	TO
1	HAMESH GUL	AFD	1.3.46	1.10.46
2	AZIM KHAN	AFD	2.10.46	12.8.47
3	BALUCH	MGI	15.8.47	17.2.50
4	AWAZ GUL	AFD	18.2.50	31.5.53
5	YAR BAD SHAH	AFD	1.6.53	31.5.56
6	MIRA BATI	MSD	1.6.56	30.11.60
7	LATIF KHAN	SNI	1.12.60	10.12.67
8	AMIR MOHAMMAD	AFD	11.12.67	10.12.70
9	MAGHRIB JAN	MSD	11.12.70	10.12.73
10	ZARBAT KHAN	KTK	11.12.73	10.12.76
11	NOOR SHAH JEHAN	KTK	11.12.76	10.12.79
12	WAZIR ZADA	YZI	11.12.79	10.12.82
13	TAJ WALI	BNG	11.12.82	31.10.85
14	QAMAR GUL	AFD	1.11.85	6.4.88
15	KHAN ZAD GUL	MGI	7.4.88	31.10.88
16	KHAN ZAMAN	KTK	1.11.88	6.4.90
17	ABDUL HAYEE	YZI	9.4.90	6.5.91
18	MAID ULLAH	WZR	7.5.91	9.11.92
19	MIR GHAFAR	WZR	10.11.92	6.4.94
20	ZAR GULAB TKI	KTK	7.4.94	30.4.96
21	WALAYAT KHAN	KTK	1.5.96	19.12.96
22	HC CAPT ALLAH DAD	KTK	20.12.96	31.10.97
23	JAMAL GUL	OZI	1.11.97	7.4.99
24	LAHOR KHAN TK II	OZI	8.4.99	6.5.2000
25	ZAFAR ULLAH	BNG	7.5.2000	31.10.2000
26	TAWAKAL KHAN	MSD	1.11.2000	10.8.02
27	HAJI MUHAMMAD TKI	KTK	11.8.02	24.5.03
28	LT ASGHAR TK (MC) I	AFD	25.5.03	6.7.05
29	H/CAPT RAZA KHAN TK II	AFD	7.7.05	6.5.06
30	ALAF DIN	KTK	7.5.06	31.8.06
31	CAPT QIBLA KHAN TKI	MSD	1.9.06	12.2.10
32	LT ALI GOHAR	MMD	13.2.10	7.9.10
33	CAPT IJAZ ULLAH TKI	KTK	8.9.10	1.1.15
34	MUHAMMAD JAMIL	AFD	2.1.13	





ADJT

RANK	NAME	UNIT	DATE
MAJ	GHULAM ABBAS	12AK	OCT 08
MAJ	REHMAN TAHIR	Psc. 8sc. 9sc ARTY.	AUG. 09
MAJ	KASHIF EHTISHAM	32C	
MAJ	SYED UMER FAROOQ HUSSAIN	44AK	OCT. 11
MAJ	MUHAMMAD NAUMAN SALEEM	442AD	SEP. 12
MAJ	MUHAMMAD IMRAN	ARTY	AUG. 14
MAJ	QASIM MAHMOOD	57C	MAR. 15
MAJ	MUHAMMAD KASHIF MUMTAZ	156AD	MAY. 15



ADJT

RANK	NAME	FROM
CAPT	K.D. DANCE	14 AUG 47
CAPT	JEHANGIR KHAN	22 MAY 48
CAPT	REHMAT ULLA DURRANI	05 APR 49
CAPT	K.C. CAME	17 OCT 49
CAPT	HUK BHITTANI	25 OCT 50
CAPT	GHULAM SARWAR KHAN	05 NOV 51
LT	AZMAT ULLAH QURESHI	07 APR 52
CAPT	MUHAMMAD GULZAR KHAN	15 FEB 53
CAPT	MUHAMMAD HAYAT	01 AUG 53
CAPT	HAFAEEZ ULLAH QURESHI	28 JUL 56
CAPT	MUHAMMAD AKRAM	01 JAN 58
CAPT	ABDUL QAIYUM KHAN	25 JUL 59
CAPT	HAZRAT KHAN	01 DEC 60
CAPT	F.M.K. YOUSAFZAI	01 SEP 61
CAPT	FAKHR-E-ALAM KHAN	10 JAN 62
CAPT	F.M. ARBAB	16 FEB 63
MAJ	F.M. ARBAB	22 APR 65
MAJ	RIAZ AIZAD	01 NOV 65
MAJ	S.M.A. NAQVI	26 MAY 67
MAJ	AHMED MUKHTIAR KHAN	11 OCT 68
CAPT	KHALID AHMAD KHAN	11 APR 69
MAJ	KHALID AHMAD KHAN	13 SEP 69
MAJ	AMJAD HUSSAIN	06 APR 70
CAPT	SYED AMIN SHAH	13 NOV 70
MAJ	SYED AMIN SHAH	18 APR 71
MAJ	ZAHIR ULLAH BABAR	19 JUL 71
MAJ	FAYAZ AHMAD DURRANI	05 DEC 71
MAJ	ABDUL HAMID	23 JUN 72
MAJ	BASHARAT UR REHMAN	17 DEC 72
MAJ	M.AKHTAR SULTAN	15 APR 73
MAJ	JAMSHED KHAN	26 SEP 73
MAJ	SHABIH HAIDER	08 NOV 75
CAPT	FAZLI SUBHAN DURRAN	02 OCT 76
MAJ	ZAFAR .H.BUKHARI 5H	09 MAY 77
MAJ	MIRZALI	03 JUL 78
MAJ	MUHAMMAD AYAZ KHAN	01 NOV 78
CAPT	ANWAR UL HAQ ARTY	01 NOV 82
CAPT	PERVEZ ALI KHAN ARTY	27 AUG 84

ADJT

RANK	NAME	
CAPT	HABIB AHMAD	ARTY
CAPT	ASAD ALI SHAH	ARTY
CAPT	NASEER AHMAD BALOCH	
CAPT	IKRAM ULLAH BABAR 5H	
MAJ	IKRAM ULLAH BABAR 5H	
CAPT	NASEER AHMAD BALOCH	
CAPT	JOSEPH JOHN BALOCH	
CAPT	JAMIL BANGASH	2 FF
CAPT	SYED FA SAL SHAH 24SINDH	
CAPT	GHULAM ALI	6 FF
CAPT	JAMIL BANGASH	2 FF
CAPT	MUHAMMAD ASLAM ARTY	
CAPT	MUZAMMIL AHMAD 23 C (FI	
CAPT	NADEEM AMER	40 F
CAPT	MASOOD AHMAD	16 FF
CAPT	WASEEM IQBAL	15 AK
CAPT	ASIF KHAN NIAZI	4 PR
CAPT	BADR UD DUJA	27 A
CAPT	MUDASSAR SIAMI	10 A
CAPT	RIAZ ULLAH BANGASH 45	
CAPT	FAROOQ HUSSAIN	12 F
CAPT	TARIQ YOUSAFZAI	66 MR
CAPT	ZAHID JAMEEL KHAN 28BALO	
CAPT	FAROOQ NASIR PIRZADA	56 F
CAPT	ZAHEER ALAM LODHI	35
CAPT	SHAFI ULLAH KHAN	8
CAPT	NAEEM KHAN BANGASH	41
MAJ	NAEEM KHAN BANGASH	41
CAPT	SYED WAQAR ALI SHAH 12	
MAJ	NAEEM KHAN BANGASH	41
MAJ	AKBAR ALAM KHAN	20
CAPT	JEHANGIR AHMED	35
MAJ	HASEEB HAYAT BHATTI	20
MAJ	SHAHID HUSSAIN ABID	20
MAJ	FAHEEM ASLAM	A
CAPT	SAIFULLAH SHAKIR.A	

FROM
JAN 86
2 APR 86
05 DEC 87
03 APR 88
11 DEC 88
09 MAY 89
01 FEB 90
30 MAR 91
20 JUL 91
14 SEP 91
23 OCT 92
09 APR 93
12 JUL 93
18 AUG 94
26 DEC 94
23 JUL 96
15 APR 97
11 MAY 98
01 MAR 99
28 JUN 99
20.5.2000
14.1.2001
31.7.2001
21.9.2002
15.11.2002
6.11.2003
8.2.2005
18.2.2005
1.6.2005
4.8.2005
4.10.2005
1.9.2006
10.7.2007
16.1.2008
9.4.2008
1.10.2008

SNO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	FROM
1	CAPT	JAHANGIR KHAN		14 AUG 1984
2	CAPT	E. KHAN		18 MAY 1984
3	LIEUT	LAL MIR KHAN		18 MAR 1984
4	LIEUT	ARMAT ULLAH GURSHID		12 JUL 1984
5	CAPT	M. MAZHAR ULLAH		18 AUG 1984
6	CAPT	YASIR KHAN	GL	21 APR 1984
7	CAPT	AMRER JAMAL KHAN***	BALUCH	25 AUG 1984
8	CAPT	GHULAM AHMED KHAN	GL	11 MAR 1984
9	CAPT	AKHTAR HUSAIN	PUNJAB	21 AUG 1984
10	CAPT	HABIB ULLAH KHAN	GL	21 JUN 1984
11	CAPT	HAFIZ ULLAH GURSHID	PUNJAB	01 SEP 1984
12	CAPT	M. AZIZ KHAN	PUNJAB	01 SEP 1984
13	CAPT	A.R. MALIK	BALUCH	01 SEP 1984
14	CAPT	F.A. ARBAW	FF	01 JUL 1984
15	CAPT	IMAYAT ULLAH KHAN	FF	02 FEB 1984
16	CAPT	M.H. KHAN	FF	05 SEP 1984
17	CAPT	SYED HAMID ULLAH	AC	01 FEB 1984
18	CAPT	M. BASHIR	ARTY	04 SEP 1984
19	CAPT	M. AKRAM	ARTY	06 SEP 1984
20	MAJOR	FAZAL HUSAIN CHOMA	ASC	09 JAN 1984
21	CAPT	SHAM SHEER ALI KHAN	FF	24 JUL 1984
22	CAPT	M. JAHANGIR KHAN	BALUCH	10 NOV 1984
23	MAJOR	M. JAHANGIR KHAN	BALUCH	17 APR 1984
24	MAJOR	H. NAHAY	ENGR	18 DEC 1984
25	MAJOR	TARIQ KHALIL	BALUCH	02 NOV 1984
26	MAJOR	YASIR MUHAMMAD	PUNJAB	28 JUN 1984
27	CAPT	M. AMIN KHAN	FF	02 DEC 1984
28	MAJOR	FIZLI MOTED	PUNJAB	04 DEC 1984
29	CAPT	M. NASIM PARACHA	ASC	20 AUG 1984
30	MAJOR	SHAHID MAHID	BALUCH	02 NOV 1984
31	CAPT	MASOOD PERVEZ TARIKH	ASC	01 MAY 1984
32	MAJOR	IFTIKHAR AHMED	PUNJAB	15 OCT 1984
33	MAJOR	M. RAFIQUE	AC	26 APR 1984
34	CAPT	MASOOD PERVEZ TARIKH	ASC	11 APR 1984
35	MAJOR	ABU RIZVI (23 CAV)	FF	05 APR 1984
36	MAJOR	ABSHAD PERVEZ	ARTY	05 APR 1984
37	MAJOR	SAEED ULLAH KHAN/50HT		27 APR 1984
38	MAJOR	NURRUD DIN KHAWAJA		28 APR 1984
39	MAJOR	MAZHAR KHURSHID	ARTY	05 APR 1984

REDESIGNATED DAA & QMG

1	MAJOR	RANAT KHAN AFFRIN	FF	01 NOV 1982
2	MAJOR	JAVED ANWOT	PUNJAB	05 JUN 1982
3	MAJOR	IMRATAROO MAHMOOD	BALUCH	16 APR 1982
4	MAJOR	ZIA UD DIN KHILJI	ARTY	25 OCT 1982
5	MAJOR	H.A. GASPARI	AC	01 JAN 1982
6	MAJOR	SARFARAZ HUSAIN	PUNJAB	04 APR 1982
7	MAJOR	JAVED ISLAM MUKTA	AN	06 OCT 1982
8	MAJOR	KABIR AHMED	ARTY	18 AUG 1982
9	MAJOR	IRAN ULLAH KHAN	ASC	11 NOV 1982
10	MAJOR	IKRAM ULLAH RASAD	CH	04 APR 1981
11	MAJOR	BAJA MATEER AHMED	S&C	29 SEP 1981
12	MAJOR	SYED NIAM UL HAM	ARTY	07 AUG 1982
13	MAJOR	TALIB SHEER KAH	PUNJAB	10 JUL 1982
14	MAJOR	THAFIQ UR REHMAN	ENGR	21 JAN 1982
15	MAJOR	MUHAMMAD HAYAT KHAN	ASC	15 FEB 1982
16	MAJOR	KHANAB MEHMOOD KHAN	PUNJAB	20 APR 1982
17	MAJOR	M. JAMIL CHAUDHRY	BALUCH	10 MAY 1982
18	MAJOR	KANA AFTAB ALAM	AN	25 NOV 1982
19	MAJOR	ABDUL KHAIR	ARTY	06 SEP 2001
20	MAJOR	NASIR ALI	12 TMEDAD	24 NOV 2001
21	MAJOR	KHURAM GHUMMAN	S&C	22 JAN 2005
22	MAJOR	IMRAN AHMED KANA	ASC	11 DEC 2005
23	MAJOR	M. AMIR IQBAL DAR	27 BALUCH	10 MAR 2005
24	MAJOR	SHAHID KANAK	31 PUNJAB	11 FEB 2004
25	MAJOR	AYAZ ALI	ARTY	4 OCT 2005

DAA & QMG

SNO	RANK	NAME	UNIT	FROM
26	MAJ	MIRZA SHAHID BANG	FF	JUN 07
27	MAJ	SHAKIR AHMED	FF	NOV 06
28	MAJ	SADIK AHMED	S&C	NOV 04
29	MAJ	TARIQ MAHMOOD	ENGR	APR 10
30	MAJ	FEROZ ZAMAN KHAN	S&C	DEC 11
31	MAJ	HABIB ULLAH KHAN	SO H	MAR 15



COMMANDANTS

RANK	NAME	FROM
CAPT	GAISFORD	1878
LT COL	NAWAB SIR MASLAM KHAN	1881
CAPT	BARTON	1897
LT COL	SIR GEORGE ROOS KEPPEL	1900
MAJ	BICK FORD	1912
MAJ	BAMBEEL	1915
LT COL	JRBOOTH DSO	1946
LT COL	M SHARIF KHAN MBE	1947
LT COL	JM PENLY	1948
LTCOL	HP HEARN	1948
LT COL	SIFTIKHAR UD DIN	1949
LT COL	M ZARIF KHAN MC	1954
LT COL	ABBAS KHAN	1954
LT COL	M SHERIN KHAN	1956
LT COL	M NISAR KHATTAK	1958
LT COL	M IBRAHIM	1961
LT COL	GHULAM DASTGIR T.O.A	1965
LT COL	GAIDERN KHAN ABDULLAI	1966
LT COL	RASHID AHMAD SJ	1971
LT COL	A H MOGHAL	1972
LT COL	ALIGOHAR SB	1973
LT COL	D LAWAN PERVEZ GILLANI Psc	1975



Aslam



Barton



Roos



LT COL JOHN BOOTH
J.R. BOOTH
1946-1947



LT COL MUMDUR KHAN
1946-1948



LT COL NISAR AHMED
1948-1951



LT COL MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM
1951-1952



LT COL GHULAM DASTGIR, T.O.A.
1965-1966



LT COL NISAR KHAN
1970-1971



COL MUHAMMAD RAZAF KHAN
1971-1973



LT COL MUHAMMAD RAZAF KHAN
1973-1975



Azmat



Sadliq



Yaqeenullah



Faridullah



Taqdees



Riaz



Qaiser



Furqan



Shariff



LT COL M. ZAKIR KHAN
1944-1991



LT COL H. ZAKIR KHAN
1944-1991



LT COL MUHAMMAD KHAIR KHAN
1944-1991

LTCOL MOSAM KHAN WAZIR	1975
LTCOL M ASIF FF	1978
LTCOL SHER URREHMAN SJ AC	1979
LTCOL AZMAT RIAZ PUNJAB	1981
LTCOL MAHBOOB ALI SHAH TB: FF	1983
LTCOL M IQBAL KHATTAK ARTY	1985
LTCOL SYED KHIZAR HAYAT FF	1987
COL HASSAN SHAH H. GUIDE	1988
COL M SADDIQ KHAN Psc FF	1989
COL MALIK NAEEM MULLA KHAN	1991
COL M FARIDULLAH KHAN	1993
COL TAQDEES AHMAD LOHRI AC	2001
COL M RIAZ SHAHID PSCSIND	2003
COL KAISER ALAM Psc BALUCH	2005
COL FURQAN ULLAH KHAN Psc AC	2008
COL AMIR AKBAR KHAN Psc Psc AC	2010
COL ASAD FAROOQ Psc (I) 951 AC	2010
COL M FAYYAZ MUGHAL Psc 95c ARTY	2011
COL MANSOOR AHMED JANJUA	AC 2013
COL TARIQ HAFEEZ Psc ARTY	2014



LT COL HAZID KHAN ABDULLA
1944-1977



LT COL HAZID AMIR S.J.
1977-1977



LT COL ALI HUSAIN
1977-1977



Dilawar



COL MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN
1945-1987



LT COL M. ZAKIR KHAN
1947-1987



Khizar



COL HAZID KHAN
1947-1987



Amir



Asad



Fayyaz



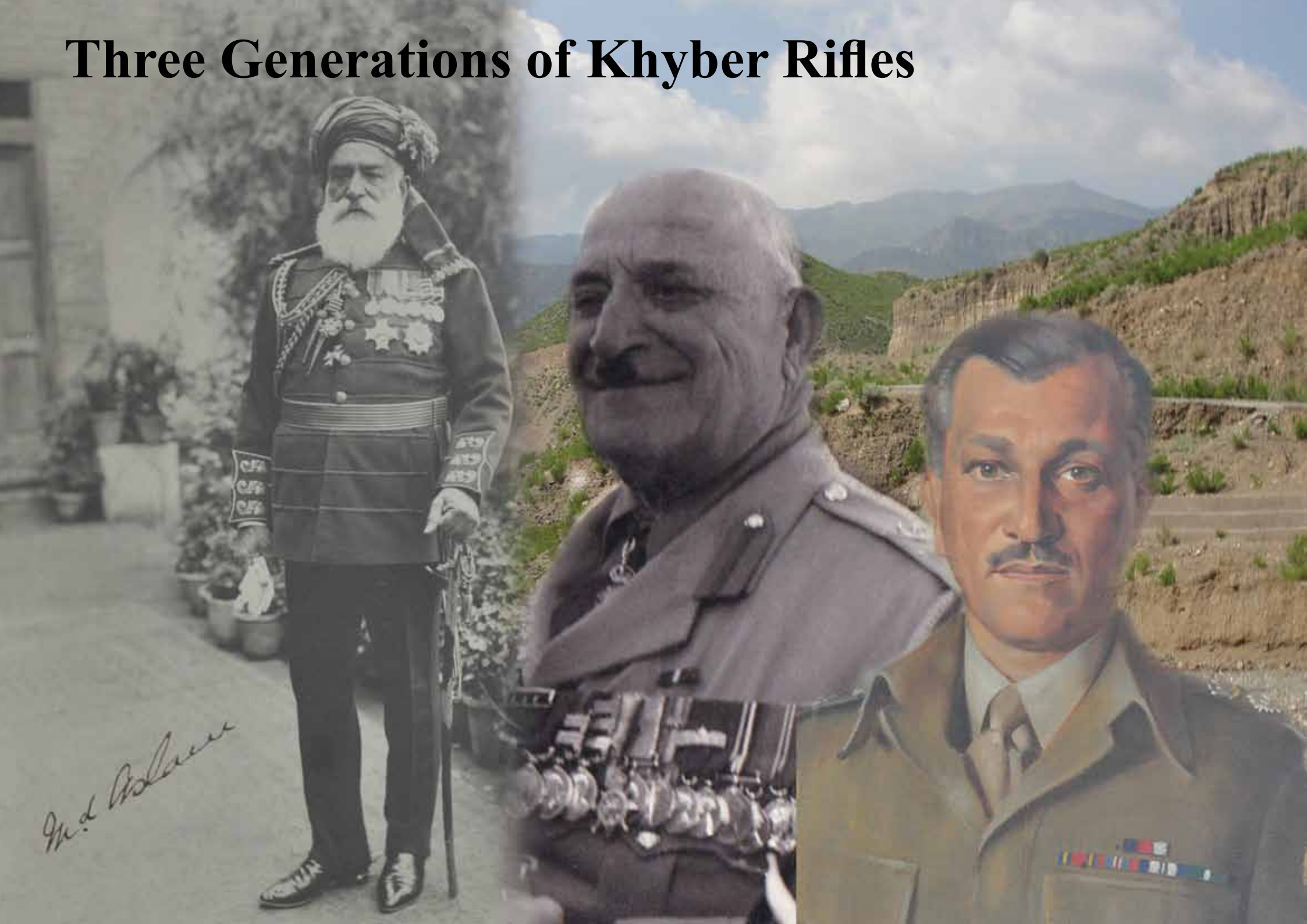
Janjua



Tariq



Three Generations of Khyber Rifles



M. A. Khan



Colonel Sardar Sir Muhammad Aslam Khan Sadozai K.C.I.E; K.C.V.O {1838-1914}

Son of Nizam Ud Daula Usman Khan, Colonel Aslam started his career as Risaldar in 5th Bengal Cavalry, took active part in Second Afghan War 1879, detailed as assistant to political officer at Jalalabad, He is the founding father of Khyber Jezailchi , he remained its commandant 1881-1897. He was also ADC to King Emperor Edward VII and King George V.

Brigadier Nawabzada Sirdar Sir Hisam Ud Din Khan Sadozai {1881-1960}

Son of Colonel Aslam Khan, he joined Khyber Rifles in 1896, fought the 1897-98 Tirah Campaign, served in Zakha Khel and Mohmand Expedition of 1908, participated in First world War {1914-1918}, also took an active part in Third Afghan War 1919, and retired from army in 1933. Hisam was knighted in 1933 and became an honorary brigadier in 1946, in 1947 he was made an Honorary Colonel of Khyber Rifles.

Brigadier Sardar Ahmad Jan Sadozai 1905-1978

Son of Brigadier Hisam Ud Din, he was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1927 and joined 7th Light Cavalry, actively served with 5 Indian Division in North Africa during Second World War, he raised 2nd Bhopal Infantry Battalion, in 1947 he was commanding 14th Punjab Regiment ‘ Sherdil’ at Razmak , he also commanded 114 Brigade at Lahore. In 1950 he was appointed as the first Pakistani Inspector General Frontier Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Iftikhar Ud Din Sadozai {1909-1989}

Son of Brigadier Hisam Ud Din, Iftikhar studied at Bishop Cotton School at Simla, joined PAVO 11th Cavalry as Y cadet in 1932, he was commissioned from Indian Military Academy, Dera Dunn in 1936. He later commanded 1st Punjab Regiment in 1948, remained as Commandant Khyber Rifles 1948-1951, also as Commandant Chitral Scouts 1951-1953.



Yadgar-e-Shuhada



SER	RANK	NAME	TRIBE	D O	SHA
34	SEP	MAIZ	AFD	10	12
35	SEP	NOOD	KTK	2	12
36	SEP	KHABIDAR	KTK	11	12
37	SEP	LAL	OZI	2	12
38	SEP	RAUF	WZR	11	12
39	SEP	GULB	AFD	3	12
40	LNK	NIKE	AFD	1	12
41	LNK	BADSHAH	AFD	25	12
42	LNK	MIWA	AFD	1	12
43	LNK	GULB	AFD	20	12
44	LNK	SHAMUS	AFD	20	12
45	LNK	SARH	KTK	20	12
46	LNK	MIMAL	WZR	20	12
47	LNK	NASIB	BNG	20	12
48	LNK	KHADIM	BNG	20	12
49	SEP	SHAHID	KTK	4	12
50	SEP	ALI	KTK	20	12
51	SEP	HALIM	KTK	3	12
52	SEP	REHMAN	KTK	20	12
53	SEP	WAHID	KTK	30	4
54	SEP	RAISAL	MISD	17	4
55	SEP	RAZ GUL	MISD	15	12
56	SEP	LAL BAZ	YZI	15	12
57	SEP	SAHIB	MMD	7	12
58	SEP	NOOR	WZR	11	11
59	SEP	ALI	MMD	13	11
60	HAV	MISAL	KTK	16	3
61	SEP	NASRAT	AFR	11	11
62	HAV	AYAZ	KTK	3	2
63	HAV	KHALIQ	KTK	3	2
64	SEP	QADAR	WZR	1	2
65	LNK	ANWAR	AFD	10	2
66	LNK	BAHWAR	AFD	10	2
67	LNK	ZAIT	WZR	10	2
68	SEP	ARIF	AFD	10	2
69	SEP	MASTA	AFD	10	2
70	SEP	ISHAD	WZR	12	2

SER RANK NAME TRIBE D-O-SHAHADAT

71	NK	AKRAM	AFD	10	2	05
72	LNK	SHAMROZ	MMD	10	2	05
73	LNK	AKRAM	AFD	10	2	05
74	SEP	HAJI	AFD	10	2	05
75	SEP	YAR BAZ	AFD	10	2	05
76	SEP	EKALIL	AFD	10	2	05
77	NK	JAN	AFD	10	2	05
78	SEP	JAHAZAB	KTK	5	6	05
79	LNK	ZAFAR	KTK	5	6	05
80	LNK	MUSLIM	KTK	10	1	06
81	SEP	MINHA	OZI	10	1	06
82	NK	TAHIR	YZI	10	1	06
83	C/SEP	AMIR	WZR	10	1	06
84	SUB	YAQUT TBT	OZI	4	3	06
85	NK	ANWAR	WZR	5	3	06
86	SEP	AMIN	OZI	4	3	06
87	SEP	ABAD	KTK	4	3	06
88	LNK	MUMTAZ	SMI	4	3	06
89	SEP	SHER		4	3	06
90	SEP	NIAZ	KTK	10	3	06
91	SEP	ANAR	AFD	13	3	07
92	LNK	HABIB	KTK	1	3	07
93	LNK	ALIF	MMD	1	3	07
94	SEP	SHAMSHAD	SMI	1	3	07
95	SEP	AKHTAR	KTK	1	3	07
96	SEP	GUL	MMD	1	3	07
97	SEP	LATIF	KTK	28	3	07





SER RANK NAME TRIBE D.O.SHAHADAT

1	LNK	HMED ALI	BNG	03	6	07
2	SEP	TANVEER	BNG	23	6	07
3	SEP	SAID	YZI	2	6	07
4	SEP	FEROSE	YZI	20	10	07
5	HW	MAEEM	MND	02	8	08
6	HW	RIZWAN	WZR	08	8	08
7	LNK	LALBAT	SMI	03	8	08
8	LNK	NOORANG	AFD	03	5	08
9	LNK	AZMAT	WZR	08	5	08
10	LNK	GUL ZAL	AFD	27	1	09
11	RECY	AMAR	AFD	10	1	09
12	RECY	IMAR	YZI	27	3	09
13	HW	VALIA	KTK	27	3	09
14	HW	FAROOQ	KTK	27	3	09
15	HW	AED	NGI	02	3	09
16	LNK	SAED	AFD	2	5	09
17	LNK	QASIM	MSD	17	5	10
18	SEP	NOOR	NGI	04	1	10
19	SEP	MAHMOOD	AFD	04	5	10
20	SEP	SUFAND	MG	04	3	10
21	SEP	RUMAR	SMI	20	3	10
22	LNK	BITTISAM	YZI	13	9	09
23	SEP	YAR	AFD	13	9	09
24	HW	FAZAL	OZI	19	5	65
25	LNK	GULAB	AFD	19	5	65
26	SEP	FAZAL	OZI	27	8	65
27	SEP	AFZAL	KTK	03	9	65
28	SEP	RAZA	MSD	04	9	65
29	SEP	ALJIB	BNG	28	10	65
30	SEP	SUNGAD	KTK	19	7	71
31	SEP	MAJID	AFD	19	7	71
32	SEP	HAZER	BNG	02	5	71
33	SEP	SABIR ALBAL	KTK	31	5	71
34	LNK	MAHMOOZAMIN	MND	31	10	14
35	ATLNK	ABDUL HANID	HWY	4	11	14
36	HW	MINZAR KHAN	Y I	4	11	14
37				13	11	14



SHUHADA OF KHYBER RIFLES

Serial	Rank	Name	Tribe	Date	Serial	Rank	Name	Tribe	Date
1.	Naik	Fazal Akbar	Orakzai	1965	19.	”	Miwa Khan	“	01-11-74
2.	”	Gulab Khan	Afridi	1965	20.	”	Gulab Din	“	20-11-74
3.	Lance Naik	Fazal Hakim	Orakzai	27-8-65	21.	”	Shamus Ud Din	“	20-11-74
4.	Sepoy	Shal Afzal	Khattak	03-9-65	22.	”	Sakhi Bad Shah	Khattak	20-11-74
5.	”	Raza Khan	Mahsud	04-9-65	23.	”	Maimal Khan	Wazir	20-11-74
6.	”	Ajmir Khan	Bangash	28-10-65	24.	”	Nasib Gul	Bangash	20-11-74
7.	”	Shahlozan	Khattak	1971	25.	”	Khadim Hussain	Bangash	06-12-74
8.	”	Ajab Khan	Afridi	1971	26.	Sepoy	Mir Shahid Khan	Khattak	06-12-74
9.	”	Majid Gul	Bangash	20-2-71	27.	”	Muhammad Ali Jan	“	20-11-74
10.	”	Nazir Jan	Afridi	31-5-71	28.	”	Halim Shah	“	06-2-75
11.	”	Maiz Ullah	“	10-12-71	29.	”	Ghazi Rehman	“	20-2-75
12.	”	Khan Noor Gul	Khattak	10-12-71	30.	”	Abdul Wahid Baloch	“	30-4-75
13.	”	Khabidar Shah	“	10-12-71	31.	”	Raisal Khan	Mahsud	17-9-76
14.	”	Lal Muhammad	Orakzai	28-12-72	32.	”	Raz Gul	“	15-11-86
15.	”	Muhammad Rauf	Wazir	11-3-74	33.	”	Lal Baz	Yousafzai	18-11-86
16.	”	Gulab Sher	Afridi	03-10-74	34.	”	Khan Sahib	Mohmand	07-12-86
17.	Lance Naik	Naik Mali	“	04-10-74	35.	”	Noor Halim	Wazir	11-11-88
18.	”	Bad Shah Gul	“	12-10-74	36.	”	Ali Khan	Mohmand	13-11-88
					37.	Havildar	Misal Khan	Khattak	18-3-91
					38.	Sepoy	Nusrat Khan	Afridi	11-11-04



39.	Havildar	Ayaz Khan	Khattak	03-2-05	Tirah (Ops Almizan) due to heavy snow fall.
40.	Havildar	Khaliq Zaman	Khattak	03-2-05	-do-
41.	Sepoy	Qadar Nawaz	Wazir	10-2-05	-do-
42.	Lance Naik	Anwar Sadat	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
43.	Lance Naik	Bahawal Pur	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
44.	Lance Naik	Zait Ullah	Wazir	10-2-05	-do-
45.	Sepoy	Arif Khan	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
46.	Sepoy	Masta Jan	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
47.	Sepoy	Ishaq Khan	Wazir	10-2-05	-do-
48.	Naik	Akram Khan	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
49.	Lance Naik	Shamroz Khan	Mahsud	10-2-05	-do-
50.	Lance Naik	Akram Khan	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
51.	Sepoy	Haji Muhammad	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
52.	Sepoy	Yar Baz	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
53.	Sepoy	Khial Muhammad	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
54.	Naik	Jan Muhammad	Afridi	10-2-05	-do-
55.	Sepoy	Jehanzeb	Khattak	09-6-05	Tirah due to Lightning Struck at Darino Drab Post.
56.	Lance Naik	Zafar Ali	Khattak	09-6-05	-do-
57.	Subedar	Yaqut Khan	Orakzai	04-3-06	Zara Mela Mir Ali (NWA)
58.	Naik	Anwar Ullah	Wazir	05-3-06	-do-
59.	Sepoy	Amin Hassan	Orakzai	04-3-06	-do-
60.	Sepoy	Abad Khan	Khattak	04-3-06	-do-
61.	Lance Naik	Mumtaz Khan	Shilman	04-3-06	-do-
62.	Sepoy	Sher Jan	Wazir	04-3-06	-do-
63.	Sepoy	Anar Khan	Afridi	13-3-06	Hussu Khel Post Mir Ali in (NWA)



64.	Sepoy	Niaz Ullah	Khattak	10-1-06	Chishmai Post (NWA).
65.	Lance Naik	Muslim Khan	Khattak	10-1-06	-do-
66.	Sepoy	Minhaj Ali	Orakzai	10-1-06	-do-
67.	Lance Naik	Tahir Nawaz	Yousafzai	10-1-06	-do-
68.	C/Sepoy	Amir Ullah	Wazir	10-1-06	-do-
69.	Lance Naik	Habib Ullah	Khattak	01-3-07	Nanga Sitara Post at (Tirah Valley Khyber Agency)
70.	Lance Naik	Alif Khan	Mohmand	01-3-07	-do-
71.	Sepoy	Shamshad Khan	Shilman	01-3-07	-do-
72.	Sepoy	Akhtar Muhammad	Khattak	01-3-07	Due to snow slide in general area east of Nanga Sitara Post
73.	Sepoy	Gul Muhammad	Mohmand	01-3-07	-do-
74.	Sepoy	Abdul Latif	Khattak	28-3-07	Tank during IS duty due to attack of militants
75.	Lance Naik	Hamid Ali	Bangash	23-6-07	Mir Ali (NWA) due to IED
76.	Sepoy	Tanveer Khan	Bangash	23-6-07	-do-
77.	Sepoy	Said Khan	Yousafzai	23-6-07	-do-
78.	Sepoy	Gul Ferosh	Yousafzai	28-10-07	Operation Mountain Viper, Swat
79.	Havildar	Naeem Dad	Mohmand	08-8-08	Bajaur Agency
80.	Naik	Rizwan Ullah	Wazir	08-8-08	-do-
81.	Lance Naik	Lal Bat Khan	Shilman	08-8-08	-do-
82.	Lance Naik	Nowrang Khan	Afridi	08-8-08	-do-
83.	Lance Naik	Azmat Ullah	Wazir	08-8-08	-do-
84.	Lance Naik	Gul Zali	Afridi	08-8-08	-do-
85.	Recruit	Aman Ullah	Afridi	29-1-09	Sustained injures due to militants attack on Landi Kotal Camp on 18/19 Jan 09. Later on embraced Shahadat on 29 Jan 09 at CMH Peshawar.
86.	Recruit	Said Ul Ibrar	Yousafzai	19-1-09	Militants attack on Landi Kotal Camp.
87.	Havildar	Walia Khan	Khattak	27-3-09	During suicide attack in Mosque near Bigiari Check Post
88.	Naik	Muhammad Farooq	Khattak	27-3-09	-do-



89.	Naik	Muhammad Saeed	Mullagori	27-3-09	-do-
90.	Lance Naik	Saeed Gul	Afridi	04-5-09	District Buner.
91.	Lance Naik	Qasim Khan	Mahsud	17-5-09	Sustained severe injuries during Buner Ops on 04 May 09 and was evac to CMH Rwp. Later on embraced Shahadat on 17 May 09.
92.	Sepoy	Noor Ullah	Mullagori	04-6-09	During ambush at Natyan (Rustam).
93.	Sepoy	Mehboob Khan	Afridi	04-6-09	-do-
94.	Sepoy	Huner Sher	Shilman	20-7-09	20 July 2009 at CMH Peshawar.
95.	Lance Naik	Ihtisham ul Haq	Yousafzai	13-9-09	Embraced Shahadat due to IED blast at Bara
96.	Sepoy	Yar Baz	Afridi	13-9-09	-do-
97.	Sepoy	Supaid Khan	Mullagori	13-6-09	-do-
98.	Sepoy	Sabir Muhammad	Bangash	03-10-09	Due to Mortor attack on Fort Salop Camp (MS)
99.	Naik	Raziq Khan	Afridi	11-3-10	Kit Kote Bajaur Agency
100.	Naib Subedar	Aqid Ali	Orakzai	03-7-10	Due to IED blast at Bara Khyber Agency
101.	Lance Naik	Muhammad Irshad	Orakzai	03-7-10	-do-
102.	Sepoy	Rasool Ghulam	Wazir	26-7-10	Due to IED blast near Tangi at Bajaur Agency.
103.	Sepoy	Murad Khan	Yousafzai	13-12-10	Due to IED blast at Khyber Agency Landikotal.
104.	Naik	Sabir Shahid	Khattak	24-12-10	Due to Militants fire at Bara Khyber Agency.
105.	Sepoy	Zakar Ali	Yousafzai	17-11-11	Bara due to miscreants fire.
106.	Naik	Rangin Khan	Afridi	16-9-11	Chora Valley Khyber Agency
107.	Sepoy	Atiq Ur Rehman	Khattak	20-8-11	Muhammad Ali Chowk Bara Khyber Agency.
108.	Sepoy	Wajid Ali	Yousafzai	28-9-11	CMH Psr due to sniper fire at Bara Khybr Agency.
109.	Naik	Farid Khan	Yousafzai	17-10-11	During Operations Bara Khyber Agency
110.	Lance Naik	Akhtar Baz	Afridi	17-10-11	-do-
111.	Sepoy	Zar Munir	Shilman	17-10-11	-do-
112.	Sepoy	Muhammad Sayyar	Mohmand	17-10-11	-do-



113.	Sepoy	Rahim Zada	Mohmand	17-10-11	-do-
114.	Sepoy	Afzal Khan	Yousafzai	17-10-11	-do-
115.	Sepoy	Adil Zaman	Khattak	17-10-11	-do-
116.	Lance Naik	Rehman Khan	Afridi	01-1-12	Karamana Khyber Agency.
117.	Sepoy	Zubair Hassan	Yousafzai	12-5-12	Embraced shahadat due lightning at Tirah.
118.	Sepoy	Khial Amin	Shilman	16-6-12	Due Explosion at Landi Kotal Bazar.
119.	Lance Naik	Asaf Khan	Yousafzai	16-6-12	-do-
120.	Lance Naik	Sajjad Anwar	Yousafzai	04-9-13	Embraced shahdat at Tirah due to road accident.
121.	Sepoy	Muhammad Ibrahim	Yousafzai	21-1-13	Embraced shahadat at Maro Sar-III (Tirah)
122.	Sepoy	Salah Ud Din	Mahsud	03-3-14	IED blast near Darya Khan Killa Khyber Agency
123.	Sepoy	Muhammad Javed	Shilman	03-3-14	-do-
124.	W/C	Maida Gul	Shilman	11-6-03	Embraced shahdat at Tirah due to road accident.
125.	Sepoy	Bait Ullah	Afridi	28-10-10	Killed by miscreants at Alam Godar area Bara, while on leave.
126.	Sepoy	Sahar Ali	Orakzai	08-12-10	Due to bomb explosive blast at Tirah Bazar Bus stand Kohat.
127.	Sepoy	Shawan Ali	Orakzai	08-12-10	-do-
128.	Sepoy	Abdul Hameed	Mahsud	17-7-09	Drowned in Barandu river Distt Buner while bathing.
129.	Naik	Nawab Zada	Khattak	03-4-14	Due to electric shock at 4 Wing Al Hajj, Bara
130.	Sepoy	Zakir Ullah	Khattak	15-11-12	Mortor fire at Bara Khyber Agency



Roll of Honour

Sitara-i-Jurat



Naib Subedar

Muhammad Yaqub

23-3-1966

Tamgha-i-Jurat



Sepoy
Sepoy

Gul Jamal
Zewar Gul

1948
1948

Sitara-i-Basalat



Major
Lieutenant Colonel

Syed Azmat Badshah
Mehboob Ali Shah

14-8-1988
23-3-1986



Tamgha-i-Basalat



Sepoy	Tika Khan	14-8-1998
Sepoy	Muhammad Imran	14-4-1998
Sepoy	Javed Khan	14-8-1998
Sepoy	Nazir Ullah	23-3-2001
Subedar	Yaqut Khan (Shaheed)	23-3-2007
Naik	Farid Khan Yousaf Zai (Shaheed)	14-8-2012
Lance Naik	Akhtar Baz Afridi (Shaheed)	14-8-2012
Sepoy	Adil Zaman Khattak (Shaheed)	14-8-2012
Sepoy	Zar Munir Shilmani (Shaheed)	14-8-2012
Sepoy	Atiq Ur Rehman Khattak (Shaheed)	14-8-2012

Imtiaz Sanad



Naik	Arbab Khan	23-5-1972
Sepoy	Maveez Khan	25-3-1972
Lieutenant Colonel	Khizar Hayat	14-8-1990
Lance Naik	Muhammad Yousaf	23-3-2001
Naik	Muhammad Imran Mahsud	23-3-2007
Colonel	Muhammad Fayyaz Mughal	14-8-2012

Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military)

Lieutenant Colonel	Mosam Khan Wazir	14-8-1979
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Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card

Lieutenant Colonel	Mehboob Ali Shah	April 1987
Major	Shan-i-Islam	April 1987
Naik	Liaqat Zaman	April 1987
Havildar	Akhtar Jan	April 1987
Subedar	Amir Sultan	April 1987
Captain	Shahid Ali Khan	18-11-1988
Sepoy	Allah Noor	18-11-1988
Sepoy	Jan Akbar	18-11-1988



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Gratitude

My sincere gratitude to the Lieutenant General Ghayur Mehmood and Major General Muhammad Tayyab Azam , Inspector General Frontier Corps {IGFC} Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To the present Commandant Khyber Rifles, Colonel Tariq Hafeez and his predecessor Brigadier Mansoor Janjua. The present project started with the compilation of Tochi Scouts history in 2011, it was pure coincidence as my platoon mate Colonel Khalid Shahbaz ‘Tiger’ introduced me to his unit officer Colonel Wajahat Hamdani who was the Commandant Tochi Scouts. Later the book was published and well received in military circles, this led to the Major General Ghayur as IGFC initiating the idea of compiling a similar book of complete Frontier Corps, with time it was modified to have an individual history book of all corps; thus the ‘*An Illustrated History of Chitral Scouts 1903-2014*’ was published last year. My own experience after the mega research of Tochi Scouts was a kind of over estimating the time and effort required. I remained under the impression that it can be done within months, but that is not the case. Each corps requires almost equal time, no matter how small is their historical age. The fact that it is not merely the corps, rather with it , the whole history of the area and tribe has to be empirically verified and challenged. With this background, the importance of Khyber Rifles can be visualised. Khyber Rifles is a myth, a legend, a folklore, a symbol of frontier romance, in short what all is associated with chivalry, military traditions, culture, ethos are embedded with the name Khyber Rifles. Its mess is the most talked about mess, not only in Pakistan but also among every army of the world. It is not the grandeur of the interior or the building but rather the mere feeling that one is walking and standing in the same room, lawn, gallery, where the history makers have been sipping tea, smoking and laughing, sharing jokes and anecdotes since our written historicism took birth; such is the charisma of Khyber Rifles. George Mackinder’s *Theory of Geographical Pivot* , Samuel Huntington’s *Clash of Civilisation* and Nicolai Machiavelli’ *Art of War* all applies in Khyber Pass.



Major General Ghayur Mehmood

Major General Muhammad Tayyab Azam

Nothing moves in Khyber Rifles or for that matter in any corps , without the approval of commandant, as such I am truly indebt to Brigadier Mansoor and Colonel Tariq and their adjutants, wing commanders, subedar majors, quarter masters, mess secretaries, drivers, list can go on and on and will finish to the mess waiters and sweepers. Hospitality of Khyber Rifles is legendary, I have learnt a lot in this regards, men are simple and wise.



Khyber Rifles have preserved the history in the mess but, a regimental history is more than mere mess talk and as such it took time to unearth the archives, old records etc., they were found among a heap of papers in the store room. Other than this the Peshawar Archives, British Newspapers Archives, National Archives of UK available on line are of great help. However all these archives cover period only uptill 1947 and for post-independence era one has to rely upon digest of service, war diary, visitor book, durbar book as the main source. Nothing can match, personal visit in collection of history and it is in this regards I am grateful to Colonel Tariq Hafeez for facilitating my journey in Khyber Agency, staying with wings at Jarooobi, Painsda China, Mastak and at Ali Masjid, not to overlook the visit to Char Bagh and Michni under Colonel Mansoor's tenure. I would like to offer my gratitude to Major General Khalil Dar, General Officer Commanding, Army Aviation for facilitating me administratively in his mess for a long duration. Doctor Reena Rizvi also played an important role in facilitating the access to the foreign archives, above all the troops of Khyber Rifles who have been extremely friendly and cooperative in the making of this book. My own head of faculty, Doctor Brigadier Khan Muhammad and Dean of Faculty, Doctor Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema in National Defence University for their patience.



Author with junior commissioned officers and regimental havildar major of Khyber Rifles 2015

Perhaps this book would have remained a dream half fulfilled for me, without the silent support of my mother, who despite her age and loneliness allowed me to roam freely; for collection of history.



Mess Staff



Dr Reena Rizvi for facilitating access to British Archives



Lieutenant Colonel Jawad for aerial photography



*Naik Gul Hassan
Kuki Khel Afridi*



*Lieutenant Colonel
Ahsan Kiani*



*Subedar Safeer
Kambar Khel Afridi*

Khyber Rifles - Commandant, Officers and Sardar Sahiban - 2015



Landi Kotal Camp

Established 1879



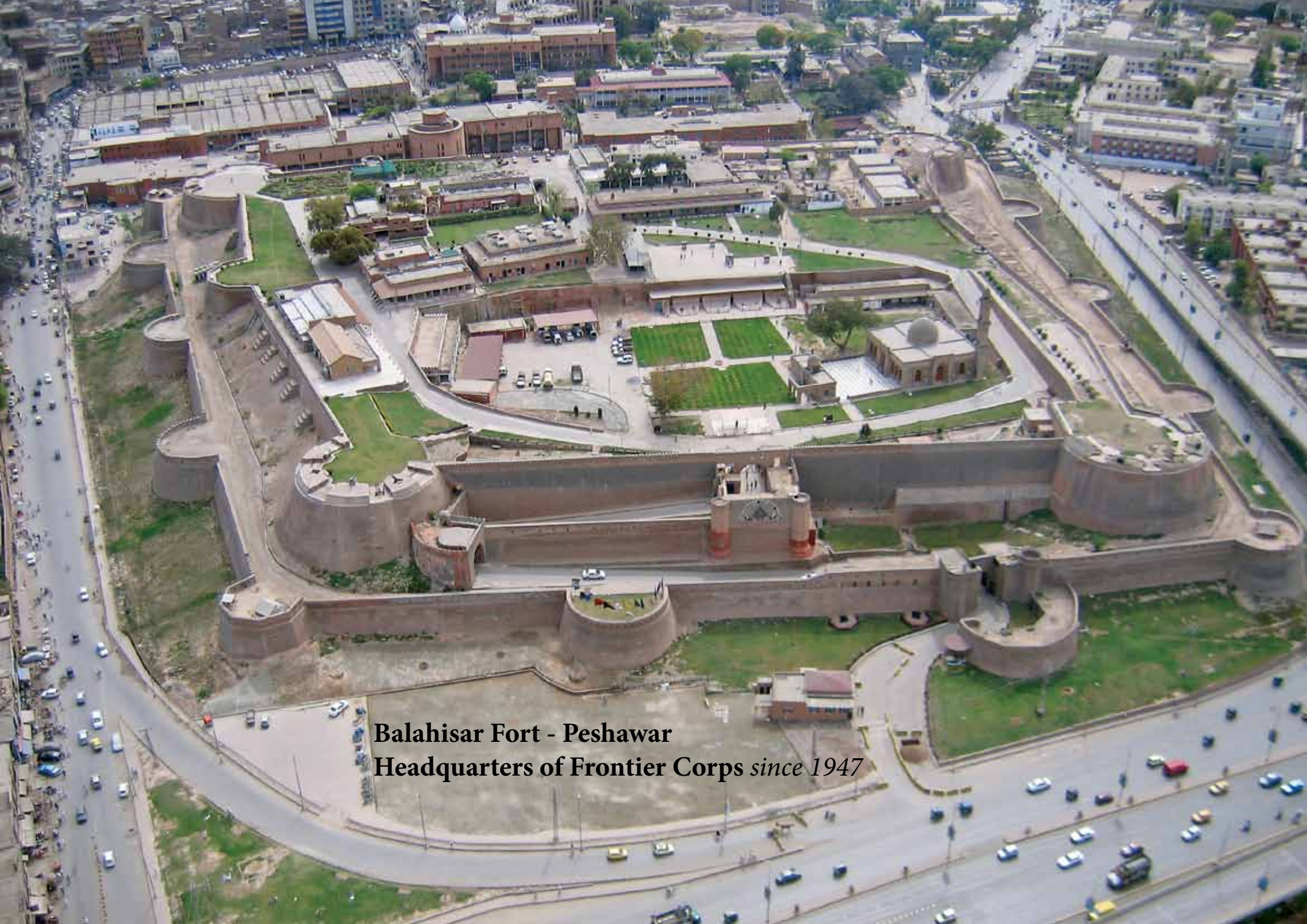


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Author





Balahisar Fort - Peshawar
Headquarters of Frontier Corps *since 1947*

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, NI(M)

Frontier Corps Headquarters Qila Balahisar - 2014



Bab-e-Khyber 11th June 1963

